

THE STORY
of the
ALBERTA
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



1909 - 1955

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FOREWORD

IN 1937 at the direction of the Council of the Alberta Women's Institutes, Mrs. Adelaide Montgomery and Mrs. Marion M. S. Rogers compiled "A Story of the Alberta Women's Institutes". They stated in their Foreword, dated May 15, 1937: "This little story of the Alberta Women's Institutes can not do justice to the wonderful women throughout the province, who have given such splendid service as provincial officers, district directors, convenors of standing committees, constituency convenors, and officers of Branch Institutes. Few of their names are recorded here. To them and to that great body of individual members who are responsible for the magnificent work accomplished throughout the years, we would pay sincere homage. They have worked nobly and well without thought of compensation or acclaim and their names are written in the memories of the people they have so unselfishly served.

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"Appreciation must also be expressed to a government which set this whole organization into motion and showed such a keen interest in the welfare of rural women. A tribute is also due to that government which while they cut the Alberta Women's Institute adrift, did so in so gradual a manner that it was possible to carry on.

"To the following and all others who have helped provide the information contained in this story, thanks are hereby expressed: Mr. H. A. Craig, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; Mrs. J. F. Price, Vancouver; Mrs. M. E. Graham, Lea Park, (Heinsburg P.O.); Mrs. C. Lynch-Staunton, Lundbreck; Mrs. L. C. McCrimmon, Sylvan Lake; Mrs. E. R. Morley, Verdant Valley; Mrs. M. F. Malkinson, Fairview; Mrs. S. F. O'Brien, Berwyn; Mrs. H. W. Quail, Round Hill; Mrs. C. W. Tait, Cereal; Mrs. W. R. Roberts, Sexsmith; Mrs. M. A. Upcott, Mahaska; Mrs. Alice L. Wood, Penhold; The Edmonton Journal; and The Calgary Herald."

Twelve years later in 1949, Mrs. Cornelia R. Wood compiled a supplement to the Story, with the object of making facts regarding the continued growth and work of The Alberta Women's Institutes, available to all Institute members and friends. The story of the growth of The Alberta Women's Institute Girls' Clubs was also included.

Progress has been slow and steady since the formation of the first Women's Institute branch in Alberta and the achievements indicate the development that is possible in the future. The things that endure are the values that have been created and the supplement placed emphasis on them.

At that time thanks were extended to Mrs. E. E. Morton, Provincial President, and Mrs. C. G. Strong, Provincial Secretary, who made records available, and to all others who sent authentic information which was used in compiling the supplement.

In May 1955, "The Story" has been revised and compiled into one volume for ready reference. It has been made at the direction of the Council of the Alberta Women's Institutes with the hope that it will provide a basis for information for all W.I. members who seek knowledge of the history of our worthwhile organization.

Thanks are due to Mrs. S. Lefsrud, Provincial President; Mrs. T. H. Howes, Provincial Vice-President; Mrs. L. D. Smith, Provincial Treasurer; Mrs. L. D. Handley, W.I.G.C. Supervisor; Mrs. R. W. Prendergast, Provincial Secretary; Mrs. M. L. Thompson, Editor of "Home and Country"; Mrs. Wm. MacFarlane, Red Deer; Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Edmonton; Mrs. W. R. Ford, District Director; Mrs. C. A. Quail, Round Hill; Mrs. A. Smith, Berwyn; Mrs. M. B. Tait, Cereal; Mrs. Geo. Sestrap, Sylvan Lake; Mrs. Ruby White, Haddock; Mrs. Freda Snelgrove, Fairview; Mrs. Margaret Sibbald, Drumheller; Miss Johanna Haakstad, Sexsmith; and all others who so kindly sent material to be incorporated in this Story.

Mrs. Cornelia R. Wood, M.L.A.

May 15, 1955

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ALBERTA WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

AS EARLY AS 1907 the Department of Agriculture of the Government of Alberta held "Institute" meetings at different points in the province, but these must not be confused with "Women's Institutes", nor did the Superintendent of Fairs and Institutes, first Mr. H. A. Craig and later, Mr. C. E. Lewis, occupy the position of Superintendent of Women's Institutes. The Institutes of that time were meetings where short courses in Agriculture were given free of charge to farmers and were usually of two weeks' duration at each centre, three or four schools being held consecutively. These were attended by many men and a number of women, the latter being particularly interested in the lectures on poultry and dairying.

On December 1st, 1912, Mr. C. E. Lewis prepared a circular entitled "Inception of Women's Institute Work in Alberta" telling of plans for the future. In this letter Mr. Lewis stated that the enthusiasm shown by the women over the addition of a short course in domestic science to the short courses in agriculture seemed to "indicate that the time was ripe for a permanent provision to assist women's work on the farms and in the homes".

"With this in view," he wrote, "it is now proposed to organize a system of women's clubs or institutes under government patronage, having as their object the simplifying of all problems pertaining to the home, and consequent achievement of better home conditions and the increase of the general fund of comfort, health, and efficiency. The study of home economics, including as it does household architecture, sanitation and hygiene, scientific nutrition, the care and training of children, and the knowledge of values (relative and absolute) of household materials will come in for a large share of attention. Mutual helpfulness will be urged and social intercourse which affects the development of an important side of human nature, will be encouraged. In brief, a conscious effort will be made to promote the highest ideals of home and the best standards of community life." This was the forecast, nearly four years after the first Women's Institute in the province had begun to function.

In 1906 there came to the newly formed Province of Alberta, from Ailsa Craig, Ontario, Mrs. M. E. Graham with her husband, Hugh C. Graham. In 1908 they moved to their homestead north of Vermilion and on the bank of the North Saskatchewan River. Neighbors were few and widely scattered. Roads were poor and transportation facilities were confined to ox-team, wagons, sleighs, and horseback.

In 1908 Mrs. Graham, who had been secretary of the Ailsa Craig Women's Institute, and president of the North Middlesex District Women's Institutes, met Mrs. John Johnson, formerly a member of the Slate River Women's Institute, near Fort William, Ontario, and

these two determined to organize a Women's Institute in their neighborhood. On January 18th, 1909, Mrs. Graham wrote to the Department of Agriculture, Edmonton, asking that someone be sent to a meeting called for February 3rd, 1909, to which all the women of the district had been invited for the purpose of discussing the organization of the Women's Institute. The letter was answered by Mr. C. E. Lewis, then Superintendent of Fairs and Institutes, who regretted inability to send anyone but expressed the hope that in the near future the Department of Agriculture would establish a Women's Institute Branch.

First W.I. Formed

The meeting, held at the home of Mrs. John Johnson, was well attended and after a talk on Women's Institutes by Mrs. Graham, it was decided to organize the first Women's Institute in the Province of Alberta to be known as the Lea Park Women's Institute. Mrs. M. E. Graham was elected president and Miss Anna McKenzie Hall, secretary. There were thirty-eight members for the year 1909 among whom were two men as honorary members.

(The story of Women's Institutes in Alberta would not be complete without a tribute to the men of rural Alberta who, since the beginning, have so nobly contributed their part, not only in the early days when rivers had to be forded, mud-holes crossed, slippery and snow-filled roads travelled, but who in later times have given time, labor and money to assist in the many splendid projects sponsored by the Women's Institutes).



The first minute book of the Lea Park Women's Institute was a five-cent "Eaton's Exercise Book" and in it are recorded not only up-to-date programmes, discussions and demonstrations but also accounts of community activities and celebrations which were sponsored by the Lea Park W.I. Members were drawn from a wide area, from Tring, Kitscoty, Marwayne, Dewberry and Riverton. The second minute book was one obtained from Mr. George Putnam, Superintendent of Women's Institutes in Ontario. In the minutes of the meeting held in June, 1912, mention is made of a letter from Miss Roberta McAdam, of the Department of Agriculture, who was making a preliminary survey of the possibilities for Women's Institute work in the province. Miss McAdam requested occasional reports from Lea Park W.I.

During the years from 1909 to 1912, Mrs. Graham repeatedly appealed to the Department of Agriculture for systematic organization of Women's Institutes and for some financial assistance in the form of grants for any institute so organized, as well as for literature on subjects of interest on the home, garden, and farm. Official correspondence from the Department of Agriculture makes mention of an institute at Streamstown in 1911, this being an organization which had its roots in the Lea Park W.I. but evidently it did not long survive the hardships and disappointments of those early days. The Lea Park W.I. although so isolated, carried on a splendid work during the years 1909 to 1914, holding meetings at the same time as the United Farmers of Alberta so the women might come to the meeting place along with the men and so make travelling easier. Many joint meetings were held and eventually, in the early part of 1914 the Lea Park Women's Institute merged with the United Farmers of Alberta and so this fine group of women in the pioneer institute was lost to Alberta Women's Institutes which were provincially organized in February, 1915.

W.I. Superintendent Appointed

In the early fall of 1912, Miss Georgina G. Stiven, a graduate of household science from Guelph Agricultural College, was appointed Superintendent of Women's Institutes. As early as 1909 demonstrations trains went through the province giving lectures to the farmers and Miss Nora Trench and Miss Roberta McAdam spoke on foods and cookery. In 1912-13 the "Mixed Farming Special" included not only demonstrations but lectures on Women's Institute work and a number of branches were organized by Miss McAdam and Miss Stiven. A large portion of these lived and flourished but others died as there was no follow-up work at that time. In the same year, provision was made by the Legislature for the payment of an annual grant of five dollars to each Women's Institute in the province that had at least twenty paid-up members and had duly sent to the Department of Agriculture reports of at least three meetings during the year.

Government Grants

For the year ending December 1912, the following Women's Institutes qualified to receive the government grant: Cardston with

thirty-seven members; Lea Park with thirty-eight members; Magrath with twenty-seven members; Pincher Creek with thirty members; Raymond with forty-five members; Verdant Valley with twenty members. Among those organized too late to qualify for the grant were Walsh, Taber, and Crossfield while others were contemplated.

W.I. Handbook Drafted

In the same year the first Women's Institute Handbook was drafted but not actually finished and printed until 1915 when the required membership was reduced from twenty to fifteen members. Plans were made for the establishment of a system of travelling libraries and a start was made on the loan collection of materials for preparing papers on a variety of subjects of particular interest to rural women. Miss Stiven resigned as Superintendent of Women's Institutes in 1914 and is now Mrs. H. G. MacDonald, of Edmonton. She was succeeded by Miss Mary MacIsaac.

Events Lead to First W.I. Convention

In January 1915 the Women's Institutes then in existence in Alberta were invited to send delegates to a convention of the United Farmers of Alberta to be held in Edmonton. The invitations were sent out by the secretary of that organization. When the delegates arrived in Edmonton they found the convention planned to draw up a constitution for the United Farm Women of Alberta and to elect a Provincial Board for this new body. Some of the delegates felt that the province was too young to support two rural women's organizations so nearly similar as the W.I. and the U.F.W.A. were at that time and requested that the constitution be made broad enough to include not only farm women but also women living in the hamlets, villages, and towns, so that one strong organization would result. This precipitated a discussion which ended in the adoption of a resolution which required one to be the wife or the daughter of a farmer in order to belong to the organization to be known as the United Farm Women of Alberta.

This meant that the women in the small towns, villages, and hamlets were left out and a number of them felt that the convention held nothing further for them and left the meeting. Among these was Mrs. D. R. McIvor of Cowley who had been a charter member of the Lion's Head W.I. in Ontario prior to coming west in 1906 and who later occupied a number of important offices in the Alberta Women's Institutes. She, along with two other ladies interviewed the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Duncan Marshall and asked him if a Women's Institute convention could be arranged. As a Seeds and Fairs Convention was scheduled to be held in Olds in March it was suggested that the W.I. Convention be held there at the same time. The matter of expense to the institutes was such a vital one that Mrs. McIvor suggested that the government pay the railway fare to the convention of one delegate from each institute. After a pause the minister said, "I will see what can be done". And so it came about that not only were

the fares paid for that convention but for subsequent conventions for several years.

The new Superintendent, Miss Mary MacIsaac, a graduate of the Toronto General Hospital entered enthusiastically into the plans for the convention. Invitations were sent out to the forty-two institutes in the province and a very attractive programme was arranged. On February 17th and 18th, 1915, about 100 women gathered in Olds for the first provincial convention.

Miss Isabel Noble, Daysland, a University graduate, a bright, enthusiastic speaker and a competent presiding officer was elected president, a position to which she was re-elected by acclamation for seven successive years. Mrs. William Fleming, Alliance, was elected First Vice-President; Mrs. Elves, Vulcan, Second Vice-President. The other officers elected were: Third Vice-President, Mrs. A. E. Saunders, St. Albert; Secretary, Mrs. Jean Muldrew, Red Deer; Treasurer, Miss A. T. Carlyle, Vermilion; Directors: Mrs. Robinson, Cowley; Mrs. A. F. Wilson, Carmangay; Mrs. Colvin, Sedgewick; Miss Patterson, Taber; Miss Robb, Provost; Mrs. Blackwell, Athabasca.

Then began a development in Women's Institute activities in keeping with the times. Travelling libraries were sent out among the institutes, and a loan collection service of bulletins, pamphlets and books on various phases of home, farm and community life and activities were made available free of charge. Within the year 1915-16 the number of institutes increased from forty-two to one hundred and seven.

Second W.I. Convention

The second provincial convention was held in the Macdonald Banquet Room on March 1st and 2nd, 1916, with two hundred and fifty women in attendance. On the afternoon of March 1st the convention adjourned to attend the sitting of the Legislature at which the Equal Franchise Bill was given its second reading. This Bill gave equal rights to the women not only in the government of the province but in the government of the municipalities and school districts and in every other place where a man has a right to vote.

Achievements of the Women's Institutes

The years from 1916 to 1921 were years of strain and stress, the war, the influenza epidemic, and the drought in Southern Alberta brought suffering and sorrow to many but the story of The Alberta Women's Institutes is one of magnificent achievement. Thousands of dollars were raised annually for Red Cross and other patriotic purposes, thousands of socks were knitted, numberless hospital supplies were made, prisoners-of-war "adopted", and soldiers and their dependants helped and cared for.

Local hospitals, maternity homes, community halls, libraries and rest rooms sprang up through the initiative and support of the Women's Institutes where the need arose. One of the many Institutes with noble records was the Cowley W.I. situated in the foothills. These

women not only raised nearly three thousand dollars for Red Cross and patriotic purposes, knitted five hundred pairs of socks and gave hundreds of dollars worth of farm produce, fruit and groceries to the Convalescent Soldiers' Home but spent over one thousand dollars on surgical and hospital treatment for a crippled child who was cured through their efforts.

Many other stories of splendid service could be related but space forbids and the memory of the W.I.'s good deeds are recorded and will live in the hearts of the people.

Many W.I.'s Organized

While the women had been so busy the Women's Institute Branch with Miss MacIsaac as Superintendent had been establishing short courses in Home Nursing, Child Welfare and Household Science. The Mixed Farming Special Train added two cars for demonstrations and lectures in women's work and a nursery car where babies and young children were cared for by a nurse while the mothers attended the demonstrations and lectures. Many institutes were organized on this train and during the years '17, '18, '19, and '20 follow-up work was carried on by Miss Noble and Mrs. A. H. Rogers in an effort to assist these new branches to get a good start and to encourage the women in their work.

There were difficulties and hardships of travel in those early days of W.I. work. In spite of mud and snow, washouts and muskegs, with ferries in and out of the rivers so that sometimes the visitor was obliged to cross on the cable in the "cradle" with the mail, just as "His Majesty's Mail" must go on, the W.I. visitor did likewise, never missing a meeting though sometimes the speaker was a little late in arriving. There was scarcely a cow-path and certainly not a regular line of travel but was covered by one or other of these officers. Words cannot describe the kindliness, the hospitality and the graciousness of the Alberta Women's Institute members, who not only made the visitors so welcome and comfortable but whose courage, endurance and determination have made the work of the Women's Institutes in Alberta so successful throughout the years.

The Third W.I. Convention

At the 1917 convention, held in the Palliser Hotel, Calgary, the Club Women's Creed, which Mrs. John Mavor, of Daysland, had heard on a visit to the New England States, was adopted by the Alberta Women's Institutes by a resolution which recommended that it be read at all meetings of the A.W.I.

The constituency organization was begun in the same year when a convener was elected in each constituency to act with the Director as a District Advisory Board. Each institute was asked to elect one member to act with the Convener to form a constituency committee.

Resolutions adopted at that time included one calling for a conference to be arranged for the purpose of consummating the federation of

Institutes and kindred clubs throughout Canada. A federation of the four western provinces had been mooted as early as 1916. Another called for recognition of equal parental rights in the guardianship of children, another signified the approval of the Mother's Pensions Bill then before the House. Another asked for medical inspection of school children.

First District Conferences Held

In the fall of 1917 the first district conferences were held at the Schools of Agriculture at Claresholm, Olds, and Vermilion. Mrs. B. D. Hummon, of Carmangay, presided at Claresholm where Mrs. Beaubier made her maiden speech to the A.W.I. At Olds, Mrs. William Fleming, Alliance, presided in the unavoidable absence of Mrs. H. J. Montgomery, Wetaskiwin. At Vermilion, Mrs. F. S. Grisdale presided and Mrs. J. F. Price, Peace River, who had been appointed director for that area by the Advisory Board, gave an address on "The Pioneer Institute".

In 1918 the number of institutes had increased to 212 with a membership of approximately 8,000. Patriotic funds were supported in that year to the amount of over \$30,000. Some 32,242 articles were made for the Red Cross, 629 Christmas boxes were sent to men overseas and many more to "adopted" prisoners-of-war.

The 1919 Convention

The 1919 Convention, held in Central Methodist Church, Calgary, marked a new era in Women's Institute work in Alberta. The war being over, the institutes turned their attention to peace-time activities in keeping with their object of serving home and country. Fifteen Girls' Clubs were organized with Miss Bess McDermind, Assistant Superintendent Alberta Women's Institutes as their supervisor and delegates from these clubs attended the convention and held a session or two by themselves. Mrs. J. F. Price was also appointed Publicity Secretary at this convention. One hundred and thirty-nine Short Courses and 503 Demonstration Lectures had been given during the year and 30,000 bulletins on Home Nursing, Sewing, Canning and Child Welfare and food cards for infants and small children distributed. During the year, the grant for Women's Institutes was increased from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and provision was made for giving the Girls' Clubs an annual grant of \$5.00. Miss Roberta McAdam, first A.W.I. superintendent, who had become a member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta representing the men overseas, told the convention of the spread of the Women's Institute movement throughout England and Wales where even then there were 800 branches with 40,000 members, organized through the efforts of Mrs. Alfred Watt, a Canadian.

Among the resolutions approved was one reiterating the request for equal parental rights, one asking for supervision of school playgrounds during noon and recess periods and one asking for free care of tubercular patients in the interests of preventing spread of the disease as well as the care of those afflicted with it.

Federated W.I. Organized

In this year also, the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada was organized with Mrs. Arthur Murphy, of Edmonton, as its first president. While Miss MacIsaac and Miss Noble were attending this organization meeting, Miss McDermand, at the request of the Minister of Agriculture, Hon Duncan Marshall, called an emergency meeting of the Advisory Board of the A.W.I. to consider what could be done to alleviate the suffering of those situated in the drought stricken area in Southern Alberta. As an outcome of the meeting, a Women's Institute Relief Depot was opened in Calgary with Miss Evelyn Murphy in charge. The branches in the more fortunate areas rallied to the assistance of the sufferers so gallantly that through their efforts 2,252 persons were helped; 30,000 garments were made and distributed and \$6,942 was spent on shoes and materials to be made up by the recipients—all this in addition to many bales of second-hand clothing. Voluntary and unsolicited contributions came from institutes in British Columbia and Ontario and many private citizens outside the W.I. Every application for help was carefully considered and approved by a W.I. member, or reliable person known to the W.I. There was no ostentation, a minimum of publicity, no suggestion of charity, just one good neighbor helping another.

The 1920 Convention

The 1920 convention held in the First Baptist Church, Edmonton, was memorable due to the large number of Girls' Club members present. Here they formed their first provincial organization with Miss McDermand still their supervisor and Edna Francisco, Cavendish, their president. Other officers were: First Vice-President, Alice Gates, Stony Plain; Second Vice-President, Minnie Page, Elnora; Secretary-Treasurer, Daisy Hummel, Milk River. Directors: Evelyn Joachim, Milk River; Marjory Anderson, Stony Plain; Maimie Johnson, Provost; Clara Smith, Alliance.

At the convention, Mrs. Rose Le V. Morgan, of Columbia University, New York, song leader and lecturer, made her first visit to Alberta. Due to severe storms, many delegates did not arrive until the last day of the convention. It was therefore agreed that the 1921 convention should be held in the summer and as the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada was to hold the biennial meeting in Edmonton the last week in June, it was agreed to hold the provincial convention in Edmonton immediately after the Federated meeting. Voluntary contributions towards a Provincial Fund out of which the allotment to the F.W.I.C. might be paid, were asked from the institutes. In the following year by resolution of the convention, the Provincial Fund was formally established on the basis of an annual levy of \$5.00 per institute to be paid to the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer of the Alberta Women's Institutes.

In March, 1921, successful district conferences were held at Taber,

Wetaskiwin and Tofield. From that time on the district conference in the Southern District has been an annual affair.

The 1921 Convention

The 1921 convention was one of the gala events in the history of the Alberta Women's Institutes for here in Alberta, where the idea of a Dominion Federation had originated in the far-sighted brain of the Alberta Superintendent, Miss Mary MacIsaac, were gathered the Board of the F.W.I.C. Among the distinguished W.I. women present were Mrs. Arthur Murphy, Edmonton, President; Mrs. Alfred Watt, of England, a visitor from the institutes of the Motherland; Mrs. William Todd, of Ontario; Mrs. David Watt, and Miss Annie Playfair, Manitoba; Mrs. W. F. Cameron, Recording Secretary, Saskatchewan; Mrs. Laura Rose Stephen, Quebec, who was the first demonstrator ever sent out to Women's Institutes when they were organized in Ontario in 1897; Miss Abbie DeLury, Superintendent Saskatchewan Homemakers' Club; Mrs. Charles Robson, Manitoba; Miss Eliza Campbell, New Brunswick, Treasurer; Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Alberta, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. J. F. Price, Alberta, Publicity Secretary; Mrs. Charles Macoun, Ontario; Mrs. V. S. McLaughlin, Superintendent, British Columbia Women's Institutes; Miss Isabel Noble, Alberta; Mrs. J. N. Beaubier, Alberta; Miss Mary MacIsaac, Superintendent, Alberta Women's Institutes. Most of the outside visitors took some part in the A.W.I. programme.

Mrs. Rose Le V. Morgan at this time made her second visit to the A.W.I. on both occasions being the guest of the Department of Agriculture. Never was there such singing as led by her, never was there such a happy and friendly convention. Never before had the delegates been in residence together, old and new friends, from all parts of the province and from almost all the provinces, meeting and living together for a happy, never-to-be-forgotten week. With an enthusiastic and popular president, and an efficient superintendent, the Alberta Women's Institutes of 1921 were on top of the world.

Many Changes Occur

In the fall of the same year, following a change of government, the A.W.I. was awakened from its dream to face serious times. Miss Mary MacIsaac, the superintendent, was dismissed. The A.W.I. was aghast and for months had the gravest doubts as to the future. However, Miss MacIsaac had built up such a splendid organization and had sought out and promoted so many capable women, keeping herself always in the background, that these women with Miss Bess McDermid laid their plans. In the spring, this bright and enthusiastic Assistant Superintendent was also dismissed. She was a person well qualified to carry on the work, a graduate of Moulton College, Macdonald Institute, O.A.C., Guelph, with a B.Sc. degree from Teacher's College, Columbia University, specialized in Education and Household Economics, Sociology and Household Arts. She later became Superintendent of Women's Institutes in Ontario, the banner province in W.I.

work, after some years of extension work at Columbia and Cornell Universities, U.S.A.

A new Women's Institute Act was passed and the Women's Institute as a branch of the Department of Agriculture was no more. Miss Jessie MacMillan was appointed Director of Women's Extension Service. Her position was a very difficult one but at all times she was courteous, kindly, and obliging, counting no effort too great if by it she could serve the women. When she retired on account of ill health in 1929 she left many warm friends among the W.I. women as well as among the other women's organizations she tried to serve.

The loss of experienced superintendents was a hard blow but more was to follow. Shortly before the 1922 convention the announcement was made that henceforth the government would not pay the railway fare of official delegates from the branches to the annual convention. A committee interviewed the Minister pointing out how seriously this decision would affect the convention so close at hand. The result was that for some time the expenses of the Advisory Board to the convention were paid and a convention hall provided.

Provincial Fund Arranged at 1922 Convention

To meet these new financial conditions, new regulations regarding the Provincial W.I. Fund were made. As so many institutes were so far removed from a convention centre that the price of the railway fare would prohibit them from ever sending a delegate, it was decided to raise a fund sufficiently large to take care of this expense as well as the administration expenses that now fell to the lot of the A.W.I. Consequently at the 1922 convention a resolution was passed providing that the Provincial Fund be raised by a levy on each branch at the rate of fifty cents per member, this to be raised by whatever means the branch might decide and to be reckoned on the paid up membership at the end of each year. It must be remembered that for some years there was a generous vote for women's work made by the government and that the A.W.I. shared in the benefits until 1928, when the Alberta Women's Home Bureau Act was passed.

The year 1922 saw the revival of the printing of the convention report in book form which included the report of the Girls' Clubs as well. The cost was borne by the government. In this book, conveners of standing committees were given an opportunity to present their reports and future plans.

It took a stalwart woman to take over the presidency at that time and strong women have been needed ever since. In 1922 Mrs. J. N. Beaubier succeeded Miss Isabel Noble who became supervisor of the Girls' Clubs. It was an anxious time through which Mrs. Beaubier and her successors passed. With almost nothing in the treasury, with no regular superintendent and with further withdrawals of government aid imminent, the road was a difficult one. Only the courage and perseverance of the women made it possible to carry on. Mrs. Beaubier's executive ability and business acumen was taxed to the

full. The first task was to draft a constitution which would be in conformity with the Women's Institute Act as amended. Much credit is due Mrs. Beaubier and her Board for this work. The constitution was presented to the convention in 1923 and accepted in 1924 after a year's consideration.

The 1923 Convention

At the 1923 convention held in the University of Alberta, the A.W.I. was asked by the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. George Hoadley, to request the government to discontinue the grants that they had been paying to the Women's Institutes and Girls' Clubs, (\$10.00 to the former and \$5.00 to the latter). This they declined to do but referred the question to the individual branches to decide. At the 1924 session of the legislature these grants were cut off. Gone was the happy, carefree spirit of the A.W.I. which had met so happily two short years before and in its place was a grim determination to make the A.W.I. a self-supporting and worthy organization. Gone was their prestige as the only medium through which short courses, demonstrations and lectures from the Department of Agriculture were available and for which they had been responsible for providing a meeting place and insuring a worthwhile audience.

The 1924 Convention

At the 1924 convention in the Palliser Hotel, Calgary, the spirit of the A.W.I. was graphically expressed by Mrs. Murdock MacArthur, of Harmatten, in a speech scintillating with humor. She warned against the insidious dangers of indifference. She said that there are two words in the English language that are an abomination, "indifference" and "neutrality" and if she ever wrote a dictionary she would leave them out.

The treasurer's report in that year showed how loyally W.I. women were rallying to the support of their organization but that the utmost care must be observed in order that the good work might be maintained. Lack of funds to permit the president or other officers to visit branches while constituency conveners were still inexperienced in organization, was a serious handicap at this time as practically all new branches were organized by mail, necessitating a voluminous correspondence on the part of provincial officers. So heavy was the work of the Secretary-Treasurer's office that the convention passed a resolution authorizing an honorarium of one hundred dollars a year to that officer. This was gratefully but firmly declined for the reason that the funds did not warrant such an expenditure during her term of office which concluded in 1927.

During these years the community work of the Women's Institutes continued to flourish and generous contributions were still made to other organizations. In 1924 Mrs. Beaubier visited the Peace River country and gave and received much inspiration.

In the same year an invitation was received from the Canadian National Exhibition to send an exhibit and speaker to Toronto. This was regretfully declined for financial reasons but as the secretary-treasurer was in Toronto at that time on other business, she was given the opportunity to represent the A.W.I. on a number of formal occasions without any expense to that organization.

Term of Office Changed

In the same year it was agreed that the term of office be two years with a chance of re-election for another term. This meant an election only once in two years.

The task of perfecting the organization of the A.W.I. as a self-supporting entity progressed remarkably under the capable guidance of Mrs. Beaubier and amidst the utmost harmony amongst the members of the Advisory Board.

The 1925 Convention

To the 1925 convention held in the University of Alberta, Mrs. David Watt, President of the F.W.I.C. paid an official visit and was the welcome guest of the A.W.I. during her stay, and her gracious and helpful presence was a benediction. That year marked the conclusion of Mrs. Beaubier's regime and the advent of Mrs. Wellington Huyck, Strome, as president. Mrs. Huyck proved to be a practical woman of good, sound sense, faithful and conscientious in all her duties. Like her predecessor, she found the going hard but she was not the sort of person to be daunted by difficulties or discouragements.

A.W.I. Exhibits at C.N.E.

In the same year the first A.W.I. exhibit was sent to the C.N.E. This was known as "The Alberta Pantry" and displayed a wonderful variety of canned native fruits, vegetables, meats, game, poultry, and fish as well as jams, jellies, and pickles from Alberta-grown produce. "Made-in-Alberta" commercial products were generously donated for the exhibit. Mrs. William Stewart, Peace River, was in charge of the exhibit and her charming personality and ready wit won many friends for herself and for Alberta.

Minimum Provincial Dues Set

The struggle for adequate finances continued and as more money was needed it was suggested at the 1926 convention in the Palliser Hotel, Calgary, that the constitution be amended to provide that where the membership in any branch fell below sixteen, the minimum provincial dues be set at \$8.00. This was voted upon at the 1927 convention in Edmonton and carried.

Other C.N.E. Exhibits

In 1926 the exhibit to the C.N.E. under the capable direction of Mrs. J. Macgregor Smith, consisted of demonstrations in the use of eggs and dairy products performed before a background of Alberta

products. In the same year, the president represented the Women's Institutes on a committee appointed by the Premier of the province for the purpose of outlining and planning preparations for a province-wide celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Confederation.

In 1927 Mrs. D. R. McIvor became secretary-treasurer of the A.W.I. succeeding Mrs. A. H. Rogers, who retired after eleven years' continuous service. That year the A.W.I. exhibit at the C.N.E. illustrated the influence the Women's Institutes have had on education and better schools in this province. Mrs. W. C. Short, of Woodbend Institute was in charge of the exhibit which consisted in part of a cleverly constructed miniature model of a rural school and playground, peopled with tiny boys and girls and a diminutive teacher, the work of a skilful and artistic young woman, Miss Clementine Poitras, of Edmonton.

Floral Emblem Voted Upon

In 1928, on the suggestion of the Women's Institutes, the Advisory Board in co-operation with the Department of Education, arranged for a vote of the school children of the province as to their choice of a floral emblem for Alberta. Their preference was the wild rose and in 1930 an Act was passed by the Legislature which officially endorsed their choice.

The A.W.I. Separated From Government

Such pressure was brought to bear upon the government that in 1928 the Women's Home Bureau Act was passed and the institutes were further cut loose from government financial assistance. This necessitated drastic changes in financial policy within the A.W.I. The Minister of Agriculture was approached with the request that in view of what the Women's Institute movement meant to the rural women of the province, the government would provide what might be termed a readjustment fund to be graduated down over a period of five years, the amount to be mutually agreed upon by the A.W.I. Advisory Board and the government. This request was granted with the result that from 1928 to 1932 a gradually diminishing sum was paid to the A.W.I.

Provincial Dues Raised

At the same time, the A.W.I. in convention in Edmonton, set its financial house in order still further by voting in favor of raising the provincial dues to \$1.00 per member. This was done so that at least a portion of the readjustment fund might be invested for a back log of financial security which would yield some yearly revenue. The Reserve Trust Fund was to receive any possible balance from current dues as well, in order to consolidate the financial position of the A.W.I.

The Women's Institute Act Revised

When the Women's Institute Act was revised in 1928, Mrs. Huyck and Mrs. Montgomery were asked by the Minister of Agriculture, to

recommend the changes after consultation with a legal authority and at the convention in 1928, by resolution, the government was asked to amend the Act in accordance with the recommendation proffered. The Constitution was also revised to conform with the new Act. This work was undertaken by Mrs. Beaubier and Mrs. J. P. Ferguson, and the revised Constitution was presented to the convention in 1929.

Business Secretary Appointed

As the clerical work which had formerly been done in the office of the Director of Extension Service now fell on the A.W.I. it was deemed necessary to open a central office with an employee in charge. A former member of the staff of the Women's Institute Branch of the Department of Agriculture was engaged as Business Secretary and was duly bonded for a substantial sum and her office set up. Mrs. McIvor was retained as Recording Secretary.

The exhibit to the C.N.E. in 1928 was in charge of the Wetaskiwin Girls' Club team of four bright, attractive girls and their supervisor, Mrs. J. A. Rodell. Their smart appearance and clever demonstrations attracted much favorable comment at that great exhibition.

During Mrs. Huyck's presidency a concerted effort was made to promote education on Public Health and Maternal and Child Welfare in co-operation with the provincial and federal departments of health and a special effort was made to secure suitable and adequate domestic help. Although all expectations were not realized, still good work was done.

The 1929 Convention

In 1929 at the convention in Edmonton, Mrs. H. J. Montgomery was elected president by acclamation and Mrs. J. N. Beaubier became secretary.

At this time \$2,000 was invested in a bond guaranteed by the Dominion of Canada and the following year another bond for \$1,000 was invested in a bond guaranteed by the Province of Alberta. A tidy sum was held in a Trust Account as well, against a possible emergency.

An exhibit featuring the work done by the institutes in furthering Child Welfare and Public Health was arranged for the C.N.E. exhibit in 1930. Mrs. Huyck, along with Miss Kate Brighty of the Department of Health was in charge of the exhibit. A large painting of the Beaver Mountain Range framed in evergreen trees formed an artistic background, while a foreground of earth and rocks at the base of the mountains gently sloped down to grassy range and prairie wheat fields. A miniature rustic log cabin, the nurse's home at Peers, built by four Women's Institutes of the Macleod Valley district, stood among the tiny trees, a horse and rider stood by the open door wherein stood the uniformed nurse, her own horse nearby, saddled and ready for duty. Other models showed various stages of the Travelling Clinic, the arrival of the truck and cars with doctors, nurses and equipment, the setting up of the equipment, the examination of the children, the

operating day and the happy scene of recovery, all so cunningly conceived and exquisitely executed as to attract most enthusiastic approval. Talks on "Alberta's Finest Products"—the Babies—rounded out a very attractive exhibit.

The 1930 Convention

A Women's Institute Handbook was prepared by Mrs. A. H. Rogers at the direction of the Council in 1930, in time for the convention. As the president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada was then a resident of Saskatchewan and as it would be a number of years before another Dominion president would be so near at hand, Mrs. W. F. Cameron, of Davidson, Saskatchewan, was invited to be the guest of honor at the convention held in the Palliser Hotel, Calgary, in 1930. Her many helpful suggestions and her eloquence as a speaker made her visit well worthwhile.

The 1931 Convention

How the Women's Institute has helped the New Canadian to find her place, was told by Mrs. Carl Brunner when she replied to the address of welcome at the 1931 convention in Convocation Hall, Edmonton. She said in part, "Be indulgent in your criticism, I beg you, it is not so easy if one does not completely master the language".

"It is a very great pleasure to me and an honor to the Shepard Women's Institute that I am privileged to reply to the friendly words of welcome that have been offered us. When we organized our institute two years ago, I was elected president, not because I was more efficient than anybody else, no, but simply because there was nobody else there who cared for the office. I knew nothing of institute life and work at the time and took office very reluctantly. Had anyone told me then that I would ever have to face an assembly such as this, I would have packed my trunks and gone back to Switzerland to be safely away from all such claims. Today, I consider it a great pleasure, and I am very proud of being accounted worthy to represent our own institute and to reply to the welcome. This seems to make my acceptance as a Canadian very real and it is this day the culmination point of my naturalization. I feel that I am now ranked among Alberta's best."

In 1931 the A.W.I. joined the Women's Institutes of the other provinces in making one Women's Institute Exhibit at the C.N.E. Alberta's share was handicraft and the exhibit was assembled and shipped under the direction of Mrs. J. Macgregor Smith.

Dr. Helen McMurchy, of Ottawa, paid her second visit to an A.W.I. convention on a special mission to spread education on pre-natal care and reduction of material mortality.

1932 Convention Cancelled

As the whole province was in the midst of financial depression, it was suggested that the expenses of the provincial organization might

be cut and a committee was appointed from the floor of the convention to make recommendations on how this should be done. Among the recommendations approved, was one which provided that temporary reduction in F.W.I.C. fees be asked for; another that the delegates' fares to the next convention only, be paid and another that the bond for the Business Secretary be reduced to \$3,000 instead of \$5,000 as formerly. Subsequent events proved this to have been a mistake. The suggestion that biennial conventions take the place of the annual convention was voted down almost unanimously. However, by the spring of 1932, times were so very difficult that the Council set the situation before the branches in a circular and recommended that the 1932 convention be cancelled and that biennial conventions be held in the future. These recommendations were accepted with good grace.

Without an annual convention, more work than ever fell upon the constituency conveners and conveners of standing committees and these splendid women have been carrying on a fine piece of work throughout all these difficult years.

First Handicraft Exhibit Held at 1933 Convention

The first exhibit of handicraft made solely by Women's Institute members was arranged for the 1933 convention held in the Palliser Hotel, Calgary, by Mrs. J. Macgregor Smith. Although the work displayed on that occasion was a credit to any organization, the quality so improved in intervening years that the exhibits became of a very high order indeed.

In 1933 Mrs. Montgomery started the Loan Collection in a very humble way but so successful did it become that it proved a valuable source from which to draw practical, suitable, and up-to-date material for programmes and is used extensively.

As president, Mrs. Montgomery became to the Women's Institute members a gracious and kindly friend, a firm and wise counsellor and won both their respect and affection. Times were still hard but the women were learning to do their best with what they had to do with and were facing the problems of the future with chins up and smiling.

Mrs. J. P. Ferguson, Trochu, was elected president in 1933, and Mrs. J. A. Campbell, Milk River, secretary.

In the winter of 1933-34 a very fine correspondence course in nutrition was prepared by Mrs. J. Macgregor Smith with the co-operation of three young graduates in Household Science. Three hundred copies were sent out each month for six months to the branches applying for them. Each branch taking the course paid one dollar to cover the cost and an examination was held at the end of the course and diplomas were awarded.

What might have been a serious blow to the A.W.I. was the embezzlement in 1933 of funds by a trusted employee. Thanks to the fact that she was bonded, and to the legal ability of the president, the final loss was exceedingly small—less than \$100.

A series of radio talks on various subjects has been given since 1931 from Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge under the supervision of Mrs. Short, Mrs. Campbell, and Mrs. Thompson, and others.

In the spring of 1935 hopes were high for a revival of extension work for women under government direction. Miss Isabel Alexander who had been assistant to Miss Esther Thompson, Director of Extension Service, Department of Agriculture, Manitoba, was brought to Alberta to undertake similar work. Miss Alexander was well qualified and thoroughly trained and entered into her work with enthusiasm. Just as plans for the work were developing and classes started, a change of government took place and in a few weeks Miss Alexander was dismissed and with her went all hopes for anything being done for the women of the province.

In the year 1939, it was found that the dire forebodings were unfounded. The programme for women's organizations was carried on as formerly with demonstrations and lectures being conducted throughout the province for ALL women's clubs. Correspondence courses on topics of interest to women, were initiated.

A Supervisor of Home Economics Extension Service was appointed in 1940 and since then District Home Economists have given their services generously to all women's organizations. Specialists in nutrition, home designing, and sewing are available to help with special instruction and have planned leadership courses with the Institutes of different districts.

A Better Farm Competition was sponsored by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Provincial Government, for any group organized before October 1, 1947, with a membership of six or more, two-thirds of whom were living on farms. The contest closed July 17, 1948 and 104 entries were received. First prize winner was the Arrowwood U.F.W.A. Second prize went to Burdett W.I., and third prize to Dinton W.I., of Blackie.

So popular had been the correspondence course in nutrition that a course in home nursing was prepared by Mrs. H. R. Evans, of Primrose W.I., Innisfree, a nurse with wide experience. This, too, proved very popular, 125 branches taking advantage of the instruction offered. The course was financed by each branch taking it paying one dollar.

Mothers' Bundles Popular

One of the outstanding activities since 1933 was in co-operation with the I.O.D.E. and the United Farm Women of Alberta, each of whom provided "Mothers' Bundles" for expectant mothers who may find themselves unable to provide for the expected little ones out of their own resources. Five hundred and twelve layettes were sent out with an average value of \$7.00. The little clothes and the lovely woolies were made by the Institute women. Two of the layettes were sent to twins at Alsask, born two months apart. No request was refused.

Lady Tweedsmuir Prairie Library Started

The idea of the Lady Tweedsmuir Prairie Library Scheme which operated through rural women's clubs in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta originated in Calgary in September, 1936, when Her Excellency invited a number of the A.W.I. Council to an interview in which she expressed her desire to assist the Women's Institutes in some way and suggested the library scheme. In addition to the books given by Her Excellency the Lady Tweedsmuir, a number were given by Her Majesty Queen Mary and in response to an appeal from Lady Tweedsmuir, the I.O.D.E. in eastern Canada forwarded a quantity of books, mostly second-hand fiction.

On arrival, the books were boxed in lots of twenty-five to thirty books and upon payment of transportation charges by the borrower, any Institute could have the books for a period of two or three months.

The A.W.I. bulletins which used to be distributed individually were amalgamated into the A.W.I. magazine "For Home and Country".

During the years, several prominent W.I. women from Alberta have been on extended personal visits to other lands and some of those authorized to take greetings from the A.W.I. were, Mrs. C. A. Gates, Stony Plain; Mrs. J. S. Scott, Kinsella; Mrs. William Stewart, Peace River, and Mrs. J. Macgregor Smith, Edmonton.

The A.W.I. Scholarship Offered

As early as 1919 scholarships for girls to enable them to attend the schools of Agriculture were urged upon the Department of Agriculture. Short courses were held in a number of localities and the girls making the best showing were entitled to one year at the nearest School of Agriculture.

In 1927, the district organizations of Alberta Women's Institutes offered scholarships of fifty dollars to the girl in first year at the Schools of Agriculture making the best showing in her work, in extra curricular activities and in general character. The award was given on condition that the winner returned for the second year. Since 1936 these scholarships have been paid for out of the general funds of the Women's Institute treasury.

THE 1937 CONVENTION

The twentieth provincial convention of the Alberta Women's Institutes held in the Palliser Hotel, Calgary on May 24-28, 1937, honored five W.I. Branches which had been organized twenty-five years and were still functioning. The branches so honored and represented at the convention were Verdant Valley W.I. organized in May 1912; Raymond W.I. organized in May 1912; Munson W.I. organized November 16, 1912; and Cowley W.I. organized in December 1912.

All past Provincial Presidents of the A.W.I. were also honored on

this occasion. In order of their terms of office, they are: Miss Isobel Noble, of Wichita, Kansas; Mrs. J. N. Beaubier, Champion; Mrs. Wellington Huyck, Strome; Mrs. H. J. Montgomery, Wetaskiwin. All were in attendance and each gave an interesting resume of her term of office. Mrs. Ella Beaubier passed on to her great reward on February 1, 1938. Her kindly counsel and wholehearted interest in the cause of W.I. work will be remembered by all who worked with her and knew her.

Mrs. J. P. Ferguson, of Trochu, was the Provincial President presiding at the 1937 convention and it was at this convention that it was decided that the incoming president of the A.W.I. should attend the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada biennial meeting, instead of the outgoing president as had been the former ruling. So Mrs. Stewart, of Peace River, the newly elected president went to the F.W.I.C. biennial meeting in Toronto in November 1937.

It was at the 1937 convention that the delegates voted that a sum of money from the provincial funds, be contributed to the fund raised to frame the portraits of the five "famous women" of Alberta, who were instrumental in achieving the recognition of women as persons. The five were: Judge Emily Murphy, Mrs. O. C. Edwards, Mrs. Nellie McCung, Mrs. Louise McKinney, and Hon. Irene Parlby. The portraits were presented to the Alberta Legislature and now hang in one of the hallways of the main building.

During Mrs. Stewart's term of office, the Council made a new arrangement regarding "Mother's Bundles", which was, that Institutes provide for those needing them in their own districts and forward extras to Miss Kate Brighty, Superintendent of Nursing Services. Edmonton. In 1942 it was decided to discontinue sending bundles to the Department of Nursing Services.

THE 1939 CONVENTION

Soon after the 1937 provincial convention, the Council set as an objective, the raising of an A.W.I. Radium Fund. At the 1939 convention a cheque for \$2,000 was presented to Hon. Dr. Cross, Minister of Health. In making the presentation, Mrs. Stewart stated that the radium purchased with the money donated by W.I. branches from all districts of the province, must be free to all sufferers needing it and she urged that the University Hospital officials make it go as far as possible. Mr. T. Cox, Treasurer of the University Board stated that with the \$2,000 gift, they could get practically 50 milligrams, almost doubling the amount on hand.

A resolution passed at that convention in 1939, asked that the Alberta Government consider the formation of cancer clinics on the same basis as that of control of tuberculosis and of social diseases, as practised in the province. In 1940, the Cancer Act was passed and since that time all radium treatments as well as X-ray treatments under the Cancer Clinic of the Provincial Department of Health have been

provided from provincial funds. The A.W.I. gift for purchase of radium no doubt paved the way for the government's important step.

Other resolutions were passed asking that legislation be enacted to protect waitresses from being exploited by long hours and inadequate remuneration; and urging measures to have all vehicles on public roads in Alberta carry reflectors or other warning lights. Since that time legislation has been introduced to those ends. Decision was made that scholarships of \$50.00 be awarded to students at Vermilion and Olds Schools of Agriculture, and at this 1939 convention the delegates unanimously agreed to establish an Emergency War Fund as a Provincial project.

The 1939 convention was held in the Macdonald Hotel, Edmonton, October 10, 11, and 12, in order to meet at the same time that the F.W.I.C. Board members were having their meeting. Thus it was that eighteen years after the first F.I.W.C. Board meeting held in Edmonton (1921), Alberta once more welcomed the thirty Federated delegates to the A.W.I. convention. Only the names of Mrs. Alfred Watt, Mrs. Elizabeth Bailey Price, and Mrs. V. S. MacLaughlin in the list of those at the Edmonton Board meeting in 1921, appeared on the 1939 list. Mrs. Alfred Watt, in 1939, was president of the Associated Country Women of the World, and she gave an interesting account of her visits to the women's groups in various parts of the world. Mrs. Price was editor of the Canadian Home and Country magazine.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bailey Price passed away in Vancouver, March 2, 1944. Her association with Women's Institutes for many years endeared her to women throughout the organization. Mrs. Alfred Watt died suddenly in Montreal, on November 29, 1948. To the cause of Women's Institutes, she dedicated over 35 years of her life. During the First World War, she organized Women's Institutes after the Canadian model in the United Kingdom, and between the wars she organized the Associated Country Women of the World, an international alliance of the Women's Institutes and kindred bodies in different countries.

Mrs. J. A. Campbell, Milk River, and the Provincial President, Mrs. Wm. Stewart were Alberta's representatives at the F.W.I.C. Board meeting. In addition to those already mentioned, members in attendance were: Mrs. H. MacGregor, Penticton, B.C., president; Mrs. J. B. Rogers, Penticton, B.C.; Mrs. H. H. Pitts, Nelson, B.C.; Mrs. B. F. Gummow, Peachland, B.C.; Mrs. J. P. Ferguson, Trochu, Alberta; Mrs. J. R. Near, Pinkham, Sask.; Mrs. E. E. Ducie, Dundurn, Sask.; Mrs. T. H. Wright, Richard, Sask.; Miss Bertha Oxner, Saskatoon, Sask.; Miss Mabel Childerhose, Rosser, Man.; Miss Esther Thompson, Winnipeg, Man.; Mrs. W. H. Hicks, Souris, Man.; Mrs. J. L. Rose, Ochre River, Man.; Mrs. T. J. McDowell, Milverton, Ont.; Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Coldwater, Ont.; Mrs. C. E. Petch, Hemmingford, Que.; Mrs. J. Brian Ashworth, Hull, Que.; Mrs. H. A. Dunham, Havelock, N.B.; Mrs. G. Humphrey, Hampton, N.B.; Mrs. Scott, Trenholm, Grade Pre., N.S.; Mrs. Freeman Lank, Bass River, N.S.; Mrs. Elton Smith, Caledonia,

N.S.; Mrs. L. B. Mellish, Montague, P.E.I.; Mrs. Fred McLaren, North River, P.E.I.; and Mrs. Allison MacMillan, Fairview, P.E.I.

The greatest national event of the year 1939 was the visit to Canada of Their Majesties, King George and Queen Elizabeth. W.I. branches throughout Alberta assisted in arranging transportation for children to travel to centres where Their Majesties could be greeted.

In April 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stewart left to visit their homeland, Scotland. On that fateful day, September 3, when word flashed around the world that World War II had been declared, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart were aboard the *Athenia*, homeward bound. At 7:30 p.m. a terrific explosion plunged the ship into total darkness and caused it to keel over on its port side—it had been torpedoed.

Then came the donning of life-belts and taking to the life-boats, where after several hours afloat, they were picked up by the freighter, *City of Flint*. While they put in anxious moments, hundreds of A.W.I. members waited in silence beside their radios to hear the word that their beloved president and her husband were safe. Many a prayer was uttered by those anxiously awaiting news. How thankful all were when that word came through, and it was with great thanksgiving that she was greeted at the convention.

THE 1941 CONVENTION

The 1941 convention was held in the Palliser Hotel, Calgary, May 27, 28, and 29, with Mrs. Wm. Stewart again presiding. It was reported that in November 1940, the sum of \$2,000 from the A.W.I. Emergency War Fund had been sent to the Receiver-General of Canada for the purchase of physio-therapy equipment for military hospitals. As a result of this donation, units were placed in military camps at Petawawa, Camp Borden, Toronto, and Nanaimo.

At the convention, a cheque for \$450.00 was presented to the Navy League of Canada, and one for £100 sterling was sent to the Queen's Canadian Fund for air-raid victims, through Mrs. J. C. Bowen, who accepted the presentation on behalf of Her Majesty.

At this convention it was agreed that a convener for war work be appointed to co-ordinate the war effort of W.I. Branches and direct these into channels having the greatest need for them. Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville was appointed as first convener of this work. A resolution was passed that the A.W.I. Emergency War Fund be continued and its immediate use be devoted to the merchant marine and subsequently devoted to such causes as the A.W.I. Council found most urgent.

Mrs. M. L. Thompson, Coaldale, was the Provincial President elected at the 1941 convention, so she and Mrs. C. R. Wood, the A.W.I. representative, attended the F.W.I.C. Board meeting held in Fredericton, N.B. At this meeting the number of conveners of standing committees was reduced to five—namely, Home Economics, Agriculture and Canadian Industries, Social Welfare, Citizenship, and War Work.

For years conveners of Citizenship, Legislation, etc. had advocated that W.I. members take an active interest in local, Provincial and Dominion affairs and become qualified for, and assume responsible positions on school boards, councils, etc. In the 1940 Alberta provincial elections, Mrs. C. R. Wood, Stony Plain, an active W.I. member was elected to the Legislative Assembly. She was at the time President of the local Branch and Provincial Secretary of the A.W.I. She was returned as M.L.A. in 1944, in 1948, and again in 1952—the first woman in Alberta to hold a seat in the Legislature for four successive terms.

Throughout the four-year term of Mrs. Thompson, the war was at its height and A.W.I. Branches subordinated everything else to their war services. They contributed to a number of war funds, bought bonds and Savings Certificates, sent parcels of garden seeds and of food overseas and shipped tons of clothing through the Red Cross to Britain. From the Emergency War Fund, 2,500 jumbo knit sweaters were bought for survivors of torpedoed and shipwrecked vessels. Thousands of ditty bags and hundreds of leather, fur and felt jerkins were sent to the Merchant Seamen. Knitted articles and quilts were made by the thousands. Large contributions were made to the Jam Fund for British children.

THE 1943 CONVENTION CANCELLED

The 1943 convention was cancelled at the request of the Minister of Transport, but the A.W.I. Council carried on the necessary work of the organization. Official visits of the provincial officers and constituency conferences were also cancelled during this time.

Three distinguished women visited Alberta Women's Institutes during Mrs. Thompson's term of office. In 1943, Her Royal Highness, Princess Alice honored the Institutes when she visited Grande Prairie Branch. A display of Institute work from all over the province was arranged for the occasion. In 1942, Edna Jaques visited many Institutes and in 1944, Miss Elizabeth Christmas, general organizer of Women's Institutes in England and Wales, held meetings in Lethbridge, Calgary, Red Deer, and Edmonton.

Mrs. George Machen, of Gordon W.I. suggested to Mrs. Thompson, in October 1944, that each W.I. member who wished to do so, give one dollar from her own Christmas money to be sent as a good cheer gift to women and children in the bombed areas of England. A circular letter to this effect was sent out and in a few weeks over \$1,000 was collected and sent to W.I. headquarters in London and distributed from there. This practice was continued for several years.

Mrs. E. E. Morton, the A.W.I. representative, with Mrs. M. L. Thompson, the provincial president, attended the F.W.I.C. Board meeting at Toronto in June 1943, where Alberta was honored by having Mrs. E. E. Morton appointed the first federated war work convener.

THE 1945 CONVENTION

The 1945 Convention was held in the Macdonald Hotel, Edmonton, May 29, 30, and 31 with Mrs. M. L. Thompson presiding. It was a "victory convention" as hostilities had ceased in Europe and hearts were humbly thankful.

Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville, was elected Provincial President at the 1945 convention and she and Mrs. Wm. MacFarlane, the A.W.I. representative, attended the F.W.I.C. Board meeting at Victoria, B.C. the same year.

At this convention, the standing committees in Alberta W.I. work were changed to Agriculture and Canadian Industries, Social Welfare, Citizenship, Home Economics and Handicraft, and War Services. A new policy with regard to the A.W.I. Loan Collection, formerly under the supervision of Mrs. H. J. Montgomery, was made. Conveners of standing committees now handle the loan papers relating to their respective committees.

Beginning in 1945, the Department of Extension offered a scholarship to the W.I. branch securing the greatest number of points in the Biennial Convention Handicraft display. The Banff School of Fine Arts provided the tuition in handicraft and the A.W.I. supplemented this with a \$50.00 cash award towards the expenses of the scholarship winner, contingent upon the winner attending the school.

During Mrs. Morton's term of office, she encouraged W.I. branches to establish libraries for the use of their districts. Approximately 6,000 books were sent out at a nominal cost to the branches. The Lady Tweedsmuir Library was turned over to her in 1946, and these books along with others donated by public libraries, military camps and individuals were the books sent. These W.I. libraries will be ready to work with Regional Libraries when they are established by the municipalities.

War services were encouraged and the response from A.W.I. branches was as great as during the war. Through Unitarian Services, since 1946, tons of clothing, especially baby clothes, have been sent to England, Holland, France, Czechoslovakia, and Greece. Projects for each month were outlined by the War Service Convener and printed in the "Home and Country".

Alberta Institutes were highly honored when two of their women—Mrs. Fred Muzyka, Vegreville, and Mrs. F. Parlee, Minburn, were presented with their Canadian citizenship certificates at the Citizenship Ceremony, held in the Legislative buildings on January 10, 1947. They were the first women in Alberta to be so honored and they had been named by Mrs. E. E. Morton, Provincial President at the request of the Secretary of State.

THE 1947 CONVENTION

The 1947 convention was held in the Palliser Hotel, Calgary, May 28 to 30, with Mrs. E. E. Morton presiding. It celebrated the 50th

Anniversary of Women's Institutes in Canada and a fitting programme was carried out.

The Emergency War Fund was closed in 1946 and at the 1947 convention the delegates decided to back the cancer research work and to establish a Cancer Fund as a provincial objective. The A.W.I. school conducted at this convention gave the duties of the members and officers of branches and the provincial organization, and was one of the highlights of the meeting.

At this time, the delegates voted that Mrs. Morton be Alberta's representative at the A.C.W.W. Conference to be held in Amsterdam, September 1947; the money for this to be raised by volunteer branch donation. As a result Mrs. Morton was an able representative at the Amsterdam meeting, where over 500 women gathered from many countries, in an endeavor to be of help in improving world conditions. The goals set were: (1) to improve the status of country women the world over, (2) to become a voice for women in international affairs, (3) to become the guardian of the integrity of the human spirit.

The Million Membership Plan for raising funds for the A.C.W.W. at two cents per A.W.I. member is being continued.

In June 1947, Mrs. E. E. Morton, Provincial President, and Mrs. A. B. McGorman, A.W.I. representative, attended the F.W.I.C. Board meeting in Halifax. On their way home they attended the Ontario Women's Institute celebration of the "Golden Jubilee" of the Institute movement, where 12,000 women gathered at the Guelph Agricultural College to commemorate the organization of the Women's Institute by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless in 1897.

In 1948, Mrs. Morton had a circular letter sent to W.I. branches asking for contributions for the purchase of artificial limbs for crippled children in France. Within a few weeks, \$1,500 had been contributed. What a power, her four-cent stamp had. The A.W.I. rallies to any legitimate need and lives up to its objective—"For Home and Country".

The Home and Country magazine continues to grow and the number of subscribers increases, A.W.I. broadcasts still go on and several newspapers carry W.I. news sent in by the publicity conveners. Constituency conferences and provincial conventions feature handicraft displays. In 1949 two new contests started at the provincial convention, namely—a short story contest and a photographic competition.

THE 1949 CONVENTION

The 1949 convention of the A.W.I. was held in the University of Alberta Convocation Hall, May 25-27, with Mrs. E. E. Morton presiding. This convention was honored by the presence of Mrs. A. E. Mac-Millan, Federated W.I. President from Charlottetown, P.E.I. It was at this convention that the Dedication of the Book of Remembrance of the Alberta Women's Institutes took place. The names inscribed in the book at the time of its dedication were: Mrs. Emily Murphy, Van-

couver; Mrs. James Boyd, Vanrena; Mrs. J. N. Beaubier, Champion; Mrs. W. A. Brown, Paradise Valley; Mrs. J. F. Price, Vancouver; Mrs. J. L. Scott, Kinsella; Mrs. D. R. McIvor, Stettler; Mrs. Catherine A. Gates, Stony Plain; Mrs. E. R. Morley, Verdant Valley. The Book of Remembrance has been placed in the Archives at the Provincial Library, where it may be viewed. Rules for the addition of names were drawn up at this convention.

At this convention Mrs. A. B. McGorman was elected to represent the Alberta Women's Institutes at the A.C.W.W. Conference to be held in Copenhagen. In 1950 Mrs. A. B. McGorman, Mrs. E. E. Morton, and Mrs. M. I. McKenzie attended the A.C.W.W. Conference where 600 delegates from 21 countries gathered to further the well-being of women throughout the world. Mrs. E. E. Morton was elected one of the eight vice-presidents and received the greatest number of votes at the election.

Life memberships in the Federated Women's Institutes were presented by the A.W.I. Council to Mrs. M. L. Thompson, and Mrs. C. R. Wood, M.L.A., for their faithful service in the A.W.I. over many years. Mrs. Rose Patterson attended the F.W.I.C. Board meeting at Saskatoon as the A.W.I. representative and at this meeting in 1949 Mrs. E. E. Morton was made President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. Mrs. A. B. McGorman, the newly elected A.W.I. President attended the F.W.I.C. Board meeting also.

It was at the 1949 convention that the Cancer Fund was discontinued and a new objective—The A.W.I. Fund—started.

THE 1951 CONVENTION

The 1951 convention was held in the University of Alberta Convocation Hall, Edmonton, May 21-24, with Mrs. A. B. McGorman presiding.

A Leadership Course in conducting meetings and outlining the duties of the various officers, was a feature at this convention and it proved to be most helpful to the delegates. Another new feature was the departure from the reports of various officers and instead, panel discussions were held with directors, constituency conveners, and conveners of standing committees bringing out many interesting highlights and important work done. It was at this convention that it was found advisable to divide District 3 into two districts with eight constituencies in each. Also it was decided that life memberships in the A.W.I. be provided for, and members-at-large in the A.W.I. be permitted. Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Edmonton, having given 47 years of faithful service in the Women's Institutes, was the first to receive the life membership in the A.W.I., and that same evening, Mrs. H. J. Montgomery became the second recipient of the A.W.I. life membership pin.

The recipient of these life membership pins is exempt from

branch and provincial dues for the remainder of her life and the branch is exempt from the payment of provincial dues for that member.

The names added in the Book of Remembrance were: Mrs. Hugh McDougall, Penhold; Mrs. F. C. Alcock, Champion; Mrs. Charity P. Norton, Coaldale; Mrs. Lynch-Staunton, Lundbreck-Pincher Creek; Mrs. James Robertson, Lethbridge; Mrs. H. Rollans, Viking; Mrs. William Fleming, Alliance; Mrs. Murdoch McArthur, Harmattan; Mrs. W. W. Scott, Bashaw.

Mrs. A. B. McGorman, Provincial President, and Mrs. E. C. Hutchinson, F.W.I.C. representative for the A.W.I., attended the F.W.I.C. Board meeting held in MacDonald College, Quebec, in June 1951. Mrs. C. G. Strong, of Vegreville, was secretary-treasurer of the meeting.

At the 1951 convention, the Alberta Women's Institute Choir under the able leadership of Mrs. S. Lefsrud made its first appearance. The ladies came from all parts of the province and joined in a large choir rendering the following selections: "O Hush Thee My Baby", "Allah's Holiday", and "Calm as the Night".

At this convention a scholarship was granted for a girl attending the School of Agriculture newly built at Fairview, since one had been given to girls at both the Olds and Vermilion Schools.

During her term of office, Mrs. McGorman was named vice-president of the Alberta Division of the Canadian Cancer Society, and also vice-president on the Provincial Board of the Canadian Association of Consumers.

At the A.W.I. Council meeting in February 1952, it was decided to close out the Cancer Fund amounting to about \$3,700.00, and they decided to hold Health Institute Schools in the University and in the Banff School of Fine Arts, where W.I. members could attend and learn of the treatment of cancer and the need for early diagnosis and about the health services given in the province. Over 300 Institute members attended these schools known as "Blue Print For Action", and they have made good use of the knowledge gained. This was the first school of its kind in Canada.

At the A.W.I. Council meeting in February 1952, it was decided that a \$50.00 scholarship would be given in memory of Mrs. H. J. Montgomery, to be known as the Adelaide Montgomery Scholarship. It would be awarded at the Alberta Musical Festival to an Alberta girl 16 years of age or under, not living in any of the four major cities, and for singing. It was first awarded in 1952.

The 1953 Convention

The 1953 convention was held in the University of Alberta Convocation Hall, May 25-28 under the chairmanship of Mrs. A. B. McGorman. The number of standing committees was revised and were to be as follows: Agriculture and Canadian Industries; Health, Education, Citizenship, Home Economics, Handicraft, and Social Services.

At this convention the booklets, "Conducting the W.I. Meeting", compiled by Mrs. C. R. Wood, M.L.A., were distributed. Printed leaflets on organizing a W.I. branch by Mrs. W. R. Ford, and a brochure prepared by the Council were also distributed.

The outstanding feature of this convention was the visit of Mrs. R. Sayre, the A.C.W.W. president, from Ackworth, Iowa. Her addresses were stimulating and challenging to the delegates and brought a broader view of the world neighborhood in which we live.

Having won the Handicraft Shield given by Mrs. MacGregor-Smith three years in succession, the Fort Saskatchewan W.I. presented the A.W.I. with another shield to be used for the handicraft competitions in future.

When in Toronto in 1952, Mrs. McGorman interested the Salada Tea Company in providing cash prizes for quilts shown in the handicraft exhibit at the provincial convention. At the 1953 convention Ridgewood W.I., of Red Deer, won the \$50.00 first prize for appliqued quilts, and New Dayton for the patchwork quilts.

The following names were added to the Book of Remembrance: Mrs. W. F. Durston, Gleichen; Mrs. Matilda Almira Upcott, Haddock; Mrs. Sarah Sinclair, Medicine Hat; Mrs. Mattie Pearl Clark, Warspite; Mrs. H. J. Montgomery, Wetaskiwin; Mrs. F. G. Grevett, Calgary; Mrs. John A. Sangster, Conjuring Creek; Mrs. Philip McLeay, Irvine; Mrs. George F. Roper, Rosedale; Mrs. Barbara Hess, Mannville; Mrs. Maria Bates, Alliance.

Plans were made to have Mrs. J. I. Jones, district director, present a life membership in the A.W.I. to Mrs. E. E. Morton, who was ill in hospital. Mrs. A. H. Rogers made a plea for support of the Arthritic and Rheumatism Society and asked members of W.I. branches to give support to this worthwhile society. It was agreed that the A.W.I. Fund be continued and that branches study and help the work of the Arthritic Society.

Mrs. S. Lefsrud, of Viking, was elected A.W.I. president and she and Mrs. T. H. Howes, the F.W.I.C. representative for the A.W.I., attended the F.W.I.C. Board meeting in Toronto in 1953, following the A.C.W.W. Conference. Alberta Women's Institutes were represented at the A.C.W.W. Conference by Mrs. S. Lefsrud, Mrs. T. H. Howes, Mrs. M. L. Thompson, Mrs. C. R. Wood, M.L.A., and Mrs. D. W. Patterson, as well as Mrs. A. B. McGorman, who was convener for press and publicity for the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada in planning for the conference of the Associated Country Women of the World. Mrs. A. McIlroy had been named an alternative delegate.

The year 1953 was an important year in the life of our movement. For the first time, the conference of the Associated Country Women of the World was held on Canadian soil where the organization was born in 1897. One of the highlights of the conference held August 12-23, was the visit made by the 1,000 delegates from 26 countries, to Stoney Creek where the first W.I. in the world was organized. Three

of the five living charter members of that W.I. were there to greet the members of the world-wide organization.

Another highlight was Canada Day when the pageant "Dominion of Destiny" was presented in Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens to approximately 12,000 members of Women's Institutes and fellow organizations. The International Sunday Service held in Memorial Hall on the campus of Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, was a high point of the conference emphasizing the importance of things spiritual and bringing a message of hope for a better world to be gained through love for God and service of our fellowmen.

At the close of the conference, twenty-five delegates from eight countries toured the west. On September 1st they arrived at Taber by train and were guests of the Taber W.I. for breakfast. A chartered bus provided by the Alberta Government took them to the Taber sugar factory, the cannery, and to the irrigated areas in the vicinity. They visited a new settler's home as well as one already established to see what life in Canadian homes was like.

At noon the guests and W.I. members in and around Lethbridge had lunch on the picnic grounds of the Experimental Station. Supper was served by Institute members in and around High River and the guests were billeted in homes. Calgary, Drumheller, Olds School of Agriculture, and Edmonton were visited by the delegates with members of the Department of Agriculture acting as guides during the three days they were in the Province.

Although much of the early history of the A.W.I. is one of a financial struggle for existence, wonderful work was accomplished. As time has gone on, that work has steadily grown. Space forbids more than a mention of a few projects but there are many, many more which might well be recorded. Few of the splendid women have been mentioned but the record of them and of the great throng of unnamed women is written deep in the hearts of those whom they served in one capacity or another and shall not fade away.

VERDANT VALLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

IN 1912 a group of progressive women, gathered from almost as many countries into the Verdant Valley district, decided to organize a women's club and after long deliberations agreed upon a Homemakers' Club, using the Handbook of the Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs as a guide. On May 12, 1912, an organization meeting was held with the following seven women present: Mesdames Sylvester, J. Brown, C. O. Dayton, H. J. Murray, F. Friedal, and E. R. Morley. The officers elected were: president, Mrs. C. O. Dayton; vice-president, Mrs. J. Brown, secretary-treasurer, Mrs. W. Bixby.

The numbers gradually increased until by the end of December, 1912, there were twenty members. Before many months the name was changed to Women's Institute as the new name suggested more scope along educational lines.

There is scarcely any line of Institute activity or community endeavor that has not been successfully undertaken at one time or other by this pioneer Institute, the second to be organized in the province.

Through the years of plenty and years of drought, through war time and depression, they have carried on a variety of splendid educational, patriotic, and philanthropic enterprises and no one has ever appealed to them in vain.

A young member of this Institute was one of the first girls to win a Government scholarship to the Schools of Agriculture, in 1919.

In May 1952, the 40th Anniversary was observed at a garden party honoring pioneers of the W.I. Mrs. C. O. Dayton, the first president of the branch, now living in Seattle, sent greetings and good wishes. Mrs. J. Brown, the first vice-president, welcomed the visitors and gave a brief history of the Institute. Recently Mrs. J. Brown was the recipient of a life membership and pin from the branch. Mrs. Margaret Sibbald, one of the early constituency conveners of the district made the presentation.

After forty-three years of continuous operation, not only the members but the whole community, feel that the Verdant Valley Women's Institute is worthwhile—indeed they do not care to think of what life would be without it.



SHINING BANK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

EVER SINCE 1919 when Mrs. J. K. Taylor told the A.W.I. convention in Calgary how the bears ate her chickens and broke into her smokehouse and stole her hams and how the W.I. "started a cemetery with a pie social" the name "Shining Bank" has called forth a reminiscent chuckle from the old timers.

On June 8, 1916, the members of a club organized some months previously, met at the home of Mrs. French to organize a Women's Institute. Mrs. J. K. Taylor and Dr. French (Miss Ada) had both become convinced that a Women's Institute was a wonderful idea and just the thing to meet the needs of the women in that district, so the Shining Bank W.I. came into being, with Mrs. J. K. Taylor, president. Later, as most members got their mail at Mahaska P.O. rather than at Shining Bank, the name was changed to avoid confusion and delay in mail service. Of the dozen or so members, all have long since moved away. In the district where roads were just trails and the members widely scattered, the difficulties of travel and communication are illustrated by the tales of members taking two and a half hours to get

through two miles of snow drifts to attend a meeting; of another riding five miles on the running gear of a wagon; and of many riding five miles on horseback through broken country to let members know of a meeting or of a health clinic sponsored by the W.I.

In 1924 Miss Kate Brighty, of the Department of Public Health, gave a demonstration lecture on home nursing in the Pella School and it was then that this young W.I. first heard of the Public Health Nurses that were sent to some of the outlying districts. "Why can not we have one?" was asked. "You might try," was the answer. The secretary had the application off on the next mail. Four Institutes in the McLeod Valley united in an effort to have a nurse sent to them. Thus was started a work of untold benefit to the whole district both north and south of Peers where the nurse was installed in a comfortable log cabin equipped by those four Institutes.

In 1955, there still is a Public Health Nurse in Peers, and she is in the same nurse's home. A committee is working to raise funds to add two rooms and a bath to the home. Throughout the district, a charge of \$2.00 per family is made each year and is used in keeping the home in repair. The Government pays for the light and fuel and for necessary furniture.

Centralization of schools has taken place and for two and a half years the children from McLeod Valley, Pella, North Darby, Shining Bank, and South Hills schools, have been bussed to Fulham School site. The former McLeod Valley and Shining Bank schools were moved to that site and used as schools, while Pella schoolhouse is being used as a community centre.

There has been no dental clinic since 1940 and since there is a dentist located nearby at Edson, there is no likelihood of one being reinstated there very soon.

During the pioneering days of the Institute, the great day of the year was the "Annual" when not only the W.I. held the annual meeting, but husbands and families, and lonely bachelors attended as well. It was a great day—such food, such jokes, such programmes, such music, such singing, such fun and dancing. Words cannot tell of the friendliness, the kindness and the neighborliness extended not only to the people of the community, not forgetting the children in the four rural schools for whose benefit clinics had been held, but to people farther afield in orphans' and welfare homes in the city.

But time has changed things there. Today and for several years past the "Annual" has just been attended by the W.I. members who drive in a truck or car to the annual dinner. Besides this day a picnic is held and ball games and a refreshment booth are held. Four years ago at the picnic, there were two teams to one car on the grounds. In 1954 there was just one team amongst the many cars and trucks. So the little community that organized a Women's Institute in 1916 has gone through the pioneering stage and arrived at the point where roads are provided, cars are owned, schools centralized and children transported by busses—a community that has made progress.

EARLY DAYS IN THE NORTH

THE FIRST WOMEN'S INSTITUTE in the Peace River country was organized when a demonstration train pulled into the brand new depot of Peace River Crossing over the equally new E.D. & B.C. Railway on July 23, 1917. Miss MacIsaac organized an Institute with Mrs. James Haryett as president, and Mrs. Kirby as vice-president, both now deceased.

Miss Isobel Noble paid a presidential visit in 1919 and helped to reorganize the inexperienced membership on a sounder basis.

The history of Women's Institutes in the North is largely associated with the upkeep of hospitals and Peace River (the "Crossing" was dropped at the request of the General Post Office), was no exception, as for many years it helped to support the Irene Cottage Hospital before a municipal hospital was established.

One of the highlights of the early Institute was the time it had the opportunity of entertaining Nellie McClung at a banquet, and the distinguished lady was disillusioned to find sterling silver, cut glass, and fine china on the tables. She had expected tin plates!

Mrs. J. N. Beaubier and Mrs. Wm. Stewart organized the branch at Grande Prairie in 1914, but there were already a number of branches in the country districts. Mrs. James Boyd, Vanrena, who preceded Mrs. Stewart as director, had much to do with the organization of Institutes in her part of the Peace River country. In later years Mrs. W. R. Roberts, Sexsmith, and Mrs. M. R. Upton, Berwyn, carried on the good work to be followed by Mrs. M. Zabel, Peace River; Mrs. D. W. Patterson, Grande Prairie; Mrs. Lorne Harris, Berwyn, and in 1955 Mrs. D. J. Hayden, High Prairie.

There are 29 W.I. branches with approximately 517 members and eight W.I. Girls' Clubs with a membership of 120 in the three constituencies of Peace River, Grouard, and Grande Prairie. All are doing worthwhile work in their communities and working for hospitals is still an important work of many branches. Cemetery maintenance, building and furnishing community halls and rest rooms and libraries are projects of note undertaken by them.

Two radio stations—CFGP at Grande Prairie, and CKYL at Peace River—carry W.I. news of meetings and social affairs each week. A School of Agriculture has been built at Fairview and a "Farm Women's Week" is now held in the north country.

Peace River W.I. and Grande Prairie W.I. still flourish as Institutes in the north march on.

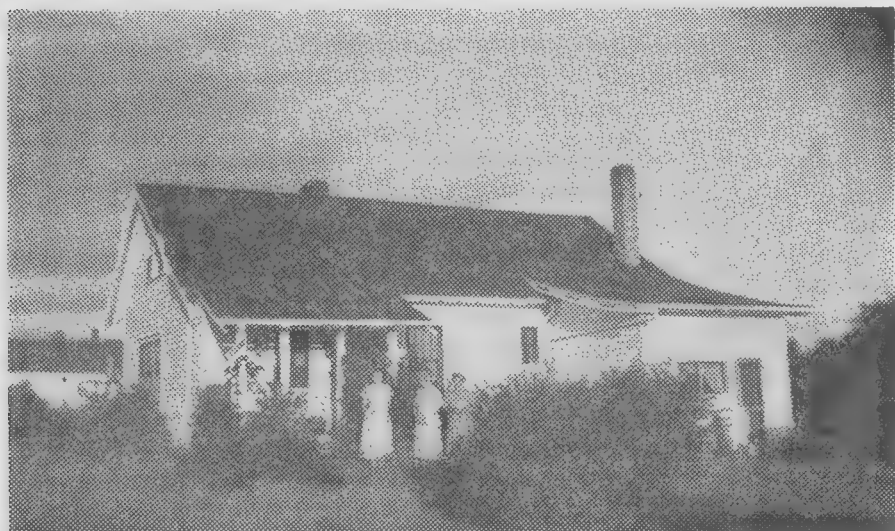


SEXSMITH MATERNITY HOME

THE SEXSMITH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE was organized in July 1917, and immediately began work for the good of the people in that newly settled part of the country.

In 1928, they opened a maternity home in a two-roomed shack, with Miss Johanna Haakstad, a practical nurse in charge. The Institute purchased two maternity beds, furnished bedding, linen, drugs, and dressings as well as gowns and baby clothes.

In 1929 a larger place was obtained and the W.I. paid the rent and helped furnish it. Two more moves were made, one in 1930 and one in 1936, but finally in 1942 Miss Haakstad purchased the home that she is now using as a maternity home and where she has two helpers. Each fall the Sexsmith W.I. holds a shower when donations and provisions, linens, etc. are given to the home.



By 1937 a record had been made when there had not been one death of a mother and not one full-time baby had been lost. Miss Haakstad reports in 1955 that there have been 3,000 babies born under her care and some of the earlier born babies are now wives and are coming to have their babies born in her Home. The mothers of the district have named her "The Florence Nightingale of the North".

In 1948 the mothers arranged a "Day of Appreciation" for Miss Haakstad. Mrs. Gilkyson, of the Sexsmith district, sent letters to mothers in the northland, who had been nursed by Johanna, and asked them to send one dollar for each baby born at Miss Haakstad's Maternity Home. A day in June was set aside to honor her and besides the purse of money, she was presented with flowers and a Stork Book containing the names and birthdays of all babies that she had looked after. The greatest thrill of all to Miss Haakstad was when she was

asked to view a parade in which all the marchers were girls and boys, little or grown-up, who had been born under her roof. What a proud moment that was for Miss Haakstad. A life membership in the F.W.I.C. was also presented to her in 1948.

Miss Haakstad is one of hundreds of other faithful women in the north country, who have given services and helping hands. Women's Institute members were always ready to carry out the motto, "For Home and Country", and history will record their many acts for kindness, friendship, and neighborliness.

Among the splendid pioneer women in the area south of the Peace River was Mrs. P. Clubine, of the Wembly district. Her kindness, her culture and her hospitality were well-known throughout that new country where she had lived and served her fellows for many years before her untimely death in 1936.



BERWYN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HOSPITAL

THE MUNICIPALITY OF PEACE, No. 857, was one of the first to obtain the services of district nurses and when this service was discontinued in 1923 it was found that a hospital was absolutely necessary. Many efforts were made to organize ratepayers but to no avail.

During the fall of 1927, at a social evening at the home of Mrs. Ortlieb, Mrs. W. Turner, whose husband was the station agent, advised the women to organize a Women's Institute as she knew what splendid work they had accomplished elsewhere. An effort was made to get Mrs. James Boyd, of Vanrena, district director, to come to a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Berwyn W.I. As the weather was very severe, it was not until March 25, 1928, when Mrs. T. Clark went to live in Berwyn that the Women's Institute was organized with the definite project in mind—to erect and maintain a hospital for the benefit of the village and district.

Needless to say, the Berwyn W.I. had the wholehearted support of the community in this project. The Municipal Council gave a grant of \$3,000 with which a house was purchased and remodelled for a six-bed hospital. The Kerndale W.I., the Griffin Creek W.I., the White Swan U.F.A. and the local baseball team each undertook to furnish a ward. Dr. R. B. Wells and Dr. M. R. Levy, of Edmonton each gave handsome donations which went a long way towards equipping the operating room; while Henry Birks & Sons and James Ramsay, of Edmonton gladly helped with the furnishings, so that on September 28, just six months after the W.I. was organized, the Berwyn hospital, fully-equipped and ready for occupation, was opened to the public and immediately put to use with Mrs. A. McKenzie as nurse in charge, and one maid.

In the first eleven months 113 patients were admitted for treatment; there were 20 out-door patients and 21 maternity cases, the number of hospital days was 1,065.

In the course of time the interest of the general public waned and it was left to a handful of W.I. women to carry on the financial burden of keeping things going. Every effort was made to have a small tax levied in the community and for a time it was deemed advisable to rent the building and contents to a branch of the Dominican Sisters.

During the 1921 session of the Provincial Legislature, legislation was passed whereby a portion of a municipality could levy a tax for the maintenance of hospital services so for the years 1930-1936 a yearly grant of \$1,860 was provided. In 1930 the Sisters asked to be relieved so the Hospital Board took charge once more with two nurses, a maid and extra help when required.

During the next four years the struggle to keep going was a tremendous one. Only through the assistance of the local merchants and the Steven's Drug Company in giving unlimited credit, was it possible to carry on.

The fees when the hospital first opened were \$2.50 per day. The regular charge of 50 cents per day for the baby was not charged as it was considered that a normal maternity case required no more care for a mother and baby than, for instance, a very sick pneumonia case or a serious surgical case. In 1932 the rates were reduced to \$2.00 per day for ratepayers and \$2.50 per day for non-ratepayers. At all times pre-natal care, preventive medicine, diabetic and dental clinics were maintained and the annual medical inspection of school children sponsored.

During the year 1935 and the first six months of 1936, many alterations and improvements were made, much new equipment, including an X-ray was installed. Then in the early morning hours of June 1, 1936, fire destroyed the hospital.

Assisted by Mr. J. Duncan and Mr. S. F. O'Brien, the patients were carried to safety in the latter's home. In less than half an hour nothing was left but a pile of ruins. The nurses and maids lost everything they owned in their successful efforts to save the patients. The X-ray was saved with very little damage. The insurance was entirely inadequate to replace the loss.

It was then deemed advisable to ask the Council to take steps to provide a new building and take over the management. This was done and Mr. S. F. O'Brien, Reeve, Mr. Lampley, M.L.A., Dr. Matas and Mrs. M. R. Upton left no stone unturned so that in November, five months after the fire, one of the most modern, nine-roomed hospitals in Alberta built with the money loaned by the ratepayers at 5 per cent, was officially opened.

Through the enterprise, the courage and the educational campaign of the Women's Institute, this splendid piece of community work was inaugurated, fostered and finally turned over to the proper authorities, the Hospital Board, of which Mrs. S. F. O'Brien, an indefatigable worker, was the W.I. representative.

In 1951 an addition to the hospital was built making it a twenty-two bed hospital. In 1955 there is not a W.I. member on the Hospital Board but the Berwyn Institute continues to be active and each year holds "Hospital Day" at which tea is served and a collection taken for hospital needs. The W.I. members continue to do sewing and mending for the hospital and help furnish the children's ward.

In addition to their many community efforts, the Institute conducts a most successful combined rest room and library.

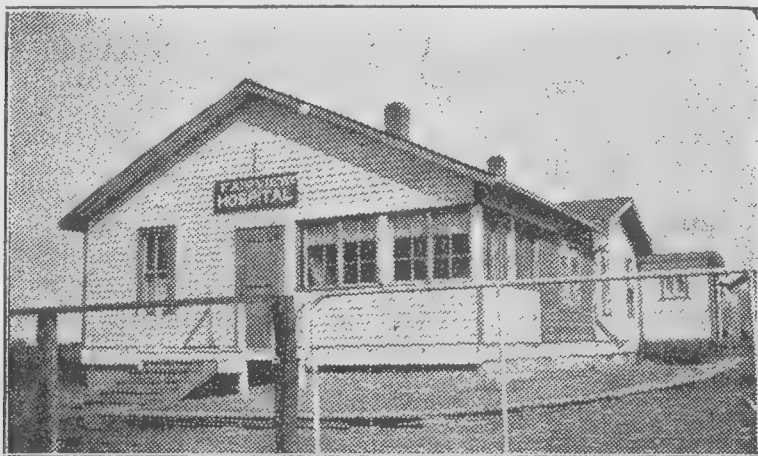


THE FAIRVIEW WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HOSPITAL AND NURSES' HOME

THE FAIRVIEW WOMEN'S INSTITUTE was first organized at Waterhole, in the days when the whole village was built on skids in readiness to move to the railway as soon as the line would be surveyed and the road built. Mrs. James Boyd was elected president.

In 1924 the W.I. planned the building of a hospital. The municipality gave a substantial grant and through the heroic efforts of the W.I. the twelve-bed hospital was opened in November of that year, under the supervision of the Women's Institute.

The original hospital was moved from Waterhole to Fairview (four and one-half miles) in the fall of 1928 when the railway was extended from Whitelaw to Fairview. It was a Government-Approved hospital and earned a Government grant which was used for the maintenance of the hospital and its contents. The hospital was entirely owned and controlled by the W.I. which was responsible for the staff, etc. but the matron-in-charge took full responsibility of the hospital itself and for the collection of accounts. The W.I. members did all the sewing of sheets, pyjamas, baby clothes, etc.



In 1931 a Nurses' Home was completed, consisting of an entrance porch, large living room and three large bedrooms all nicely kalsomined and the floors of narrow fir varnished and waxed. The beds, heater, and light fixtures were paid for by the W.I. and at a tea and shower such things as curtains, cushions, clock, etc. were paid for so that the home was a home indeed. The building was completely paid for and insured. A wonderful achievement in depression years!

The district grew rapidly and the demands upon the hospital services increased every month. In the year 1935, there were thirty-four major operations performed. The W.I. was faced with a big responsibility in running the hospital so arrangements were made to have a vote taken in order to have a municipal hospital district formed. The vote was successful and in 1937 the community took it over and in 1939 a Municipal Hospital District was formed and the Women's Hospital and the Nurses' Home were turned over to the Municipal Hospital Board. The original hospital building is now (1955) the home of the Sisters teaching at the St. Thomas Moore Separate school.

In the new, modern hospital building there are 46 beds and the W.I. maintains a two-bed ward in it. The W.I. members also contribute to the New Year's baby gifts and give complete layettes to any mother having twins in the hospital.

Mrs. James Boyd, a pioneer in the north country, had much to do with the establishment of the hospital which stood for so many years as a monument to her great motherly heart and her fine, sane good sense. She passed to her reward in 1936, but her name lives on in the hearts of the early settlers north of the Peace.

Other faithful W.I. workers carried on her great work and after disposing of the responsibility of the hospital, the Fairview W.I. members devoted their time and efforts to Red Cross work at home and overseas. At the close of the war, they concentrated their efforts on building a closed arena. They are proud of their project and have contributed over \$2,000.00 a year for the past six years toward it.



CEREAL REST ROOM AND HOSPITAL

WHEN THE Prairie Circle Women's Institute was organized on the demonstration train in 1915, Mrs. J. C. Cottrell became the first president and Mrs. Charles Layton the secretary. Their first enterprise was the rest room. The district was canvassed for funds and money was raised by the Institute in various ways. A lot was purchased from the C.P.R., a shack was soon erected on the lot and the W.I. members furnished it bit by bit, until it was a very comfortable building.

When the influenza epidemic swept through the community and

every available place was required for the sick, the W.I. rest room was used as a temporary hospital.

From this sprang the idea of establishing a local hospital. Again there was a round of money-making events, lumber and building materials were bought and the husbands of the W.I. members did the work free, so that soon a fine little hospital which could accommodate ten patients, a day and a night nurse and a cook, was ready for occupation with a doctor in charge. Some time later the men got together and excavated a basement and the doctor put in a furnace. For some years the doctor paid twenty-five dollars a month rent for the use of the hospital, but during the depression years, the Institute asked no rent for it.

During that period too, the W.I., the doctor and the matron had a struggle to carry on with the hospital and its work. The building was getting too small for the number of cases seeking admission, and funds were not available to enlarge the building, so much concern was felt as to whether their hospital could carry on.

In 1944 negotiations were started to form a Municipal Hospital District and in 1945 the W.I. relinquished all claim to the building and its contents and turned it over without receiving a cent, to the Municipal Hospital Board. A new hospital has been built and over the inside of the front door hangs a square, bronze plaque on which it states, "The original building was given by the 'Prairie Circle' for a hospital in 1918".

In 1934, the name Prairie Circle was changed to Cereal Women's Institute.

In 1949 a hospital auxiliary was organized and some of the members of the Cereal W.I. joined. Thus the interest in the work of the hospital continues but of late their activities have been centered on raising funds for various patriotic and health funds and making an annual award of a twenty-five dollar scholarship for twelfth grade pupils.



PENHOLD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEMORIAL HALL

THE PENHOLD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE was organized in 1916 with Mrs. A. W. Walker, president, and Miss Hives, secretary.

In January 1919, Mrs. Hugh R. McDougall, then president, conceived the idea of a Memorial Hall in memory of the soldiers of the Great War, and a public meeting was called. At a large representative meeting, hearty co-operation was promised if the W.I. would find ways and means of financing the proposed hall. An aggressive campaign was launched and voluntary labor was given in hauling gravel, excavating and doing cement work. A local firm gave a good price on the lumber and took shares in the building in payment, which

shares could be redeemed at any time. A local building contractor was engaged to superintend the construction of the hall, and he proved his faith in the W.I. by paying his help himself, and awaiting the W.I.'s pleasure for reimbursement.

A general canvass of the district yielded many donations and the W.I. members each promised five dollars as a nucleus. Funds were raised in the usual round of events and shares sold to individuals, such shares to be redeemed as soon as possible.

The hall opened in November with a grand military dance, just six months after the first sod was turned. The hall and equipment cost approximately \$7,000 of which \$2,000 was paid off the first year. The balance of the debt was paid off by August 1925.

Additional land was purchased and seeded down, trees and shrubs were planted making a lovely garden beside the hall. Many compliments were paid to the W.I. down through the years, for this fine accomplishment, but let no one think it was all easy going to maintain such a building through the difficult years.

On October 28, 1945, the Penhold W.I. presented the hall to the village of Penhold as a memorial to those of World War II. The presentation address was given by Mrs. Hugh R. McDougall who originated the idea in 1919 and played an active part in maintaining the hall throughout the many years of W.I. ownership. Before she moved to Calgary in 1945, Mrs. McDougall was given a life membership in the F.W.I.C. by her fellow members of the Red Deer Centre Constituency. She had been president of the Penhold W.I. for 16 years and constituency convener twice, serving four years each term. On March 25, 1950 Mrs. McDougall passed away in Calgary. Her influence will long be felt by all those who knew her.

Among the many other Institutes which built or supported community halls or circulating libraries in the early days of the movement, were Delburne, Reid Hall, Sibbald, Millarville, Tofield, and Lousana, at which place the Women's Institute served meals to the volunteer workmen while constructing the hall.



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE PIER AT SYLVAN LAKE

SYLVAN LAKE is a lovely summer resort and the Women's Institute, organized there in 1925, raised money by dances, raffles, teas, socials, and card parties for the purpose of building a pier at the beach. This fund was augmented by donations from property holders and several other prominent people interested in Sylvan Lake.

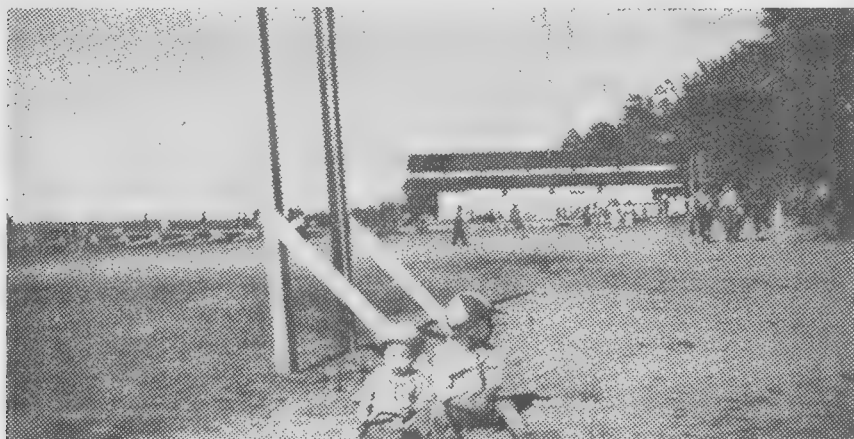
The Divisional Manager of the Canadian National Railways, Mr. K. D. McClay gave advice as to construction and inspected the pier when completed. On July 12, 1928, the pier was officially opened by the Right Honorable R. B. Bennett, then Prime Minister of Canada.

The W.I. officers in that year were: Mrs. J. A. Dingwall, president; Mrs. A. M. Steele and Mrs. Guendet, vice-presidents; and Miss Thelma Graham, secretary-treasurer.

Down through the years, the W.I. raised funds and kept the pier in good repair, but by June 1953 the expense of general repair became so heavy that the W.I. turned it over to the Town of Sylvan Lake.

Some years ago, the W.I. purchased a building which they renovated and furnished with range, table, dishes, chairs, and piano, for a hall. They still have this hall which this spring (1955) has been newly decorated inside and freshly painted outside. It is continually in use and is proving to be a paying investment.

Three charter members of Sylvan Lake W.I. are still active in the organization. They are Mrs. J. D. Dingman, Mrs. F. D. McCrimmon, and Mrs. M. B. Falkner



CALVARY CEMETERY AT ROUND HILL

THE ROUND HILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE was organized in August 1918 with Mrs. O. L. Waterman, president, and Miss Ethel Foss, secretary. In the fall of 1920, the W.I. planned to purchase land for a cemetery and in January 1921 an acre of land was purchased one mile north of Round Hill. The price paid was \$100.00 and a free plot in the cemetery. Mrs. H. W. Quail was president at the time and Miss Sylvia Foster, secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. O. Nelson, Mrs. H. W. Quail, and Mrs. E. M. Bosmans were made directors of the Cemetery Board and Mr. Quail made supervisor. Mr. Bosmans, besides being one of the oldest settlers in the district was an enthusiastic gardener and was of great assistance in landscaping the cemetery and he donated many shrubs.

Trees and shrubs were planted and the land suitably fenced. The money for surveying and labor was raised by the sale of plots, donations and the balance out of Women's Institute funds. The annual cost of caretaking varied from fifty to a hundred dollars.

This lovely cemetery is a bower of beauty with its profusion of flowering shrubs, honeysuckle, lilac, caragana and elm, spruce and jackpine trees. It is still the property of the Round Hill W.I. and most of the money for its upkeep during the past few years has come from Memorial donations. This Memorial Fund was set up about seven years ago and has helped considerably in financing the upkeep of the cemetery. A power mower is to be purchased this spring (1955) which will make the work lighter for the Institute members and those who go periodically to mow the lawn. For some years a regular caretaker has not been hired, but there is usually a good turn out of volunteers on the days set to work at the cemetery. A basket lunch is taken and the W.I. serves coffee.

Mr. Bosmans passed away in September 1929 and Mrs. H. W. Quail has carried on as supervisor. She is still very active in the W.I. along with Mrs. C. A. Fergstad Sr. who are both charter members. They were both presented with life memberships in the A.W.I. at the Constituency Conference held in Round Hill in 1953. It was the 35th anniversary of the branch and Mrs. S. L. Lefsrud, A.W.I. President was present to do the honors.

Many Institutes have taken an interest in beautifying and transforming ill-cared-for cemeteries. Some of those in the early days were Stettler, Botha, and Fort Saskatchewan.



MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE OF THE GLEICHEN CONSTITUENCY ERECT A CAIRN AT BLACKFOOT CROSSING IN HONOR OF THE SIGNING OF THE PEACE TREATY IN 1877.

IN 1927, fifty years after the signing of the Peace Treaty at Blackfoot Crossing in 1877, representatives of the Women's Institute of the Gleichen Constituency, in Alberta, assembled at that historic spot to do honor to the memory of Crowfoot, the noblest and bravest of Blackfoot chieftains.

The Blackfoot tribe was represented by Chief Three Sons, the sole surviving Indian on the Blackfoot Reserve who was present at the signing of the treaty. At the conclusion of the ceremony gifts of tobacco and a pipe were bestowed upon him.

Three Sons, accompanied by his squaw, appeared attired in his most gorgeous ceremonial regalia of beaded and embroidered buckskin garments and magnificent feathered headdress. He was decorated with numerous charms and amulets and elaborately painted, in honor of an important occasion. He directed the assembly to the exact spot

where before the Council Tent of the paleface officials and representatives of the Great Queen Mother, the Peace Treaty was signed beneath their great red totem, the Union Jack, which the Indians firmly believed protected their white brethren from all harm—just as did their own tribal totems flying from the standards before their painted ceremonial teepees. The palefaces had reason to think so too, else how could a mere handful of white people, only 100 in all, remain unscathed in the midst of 4,000 savages, with discontent, jealousy, barbarity, seething in their hearts and thirsting for expression in fierce rebellion and bloody massacre.

Five white women accompanied their husbands on this perilous occasion of the treaty signing. They were: Mrs. Macleod, wife of Col. J. F. Macleod. Mrs. Winder, wife of Capt. Winder; Mrs. Shurtcliffe, wife of Lt. Shurtcliffe, all of North West Mounted Police; Mrs. McDougall, wife of the pioneer missionary; and Mrs. Hardisty, whose husband was Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, long-established traders of the North West Territories. The courage of these women equalled the bravery of their husbands. Encircled by whooping, gloating, frenzied red fiends armed and firing off their guns from pure deviltry, to test the mettle of the palefaces, to shatter, if possible, their strained nerves—one sign of fear—and savagery had been triumphant!

But outstanding amidst the savage horde was Crowfoot, the noble Blackfoot chieftain, who talked to them and restrained them from evil-doing. A noble figure, he stood before his people in ceremonial attire, and addressed the assembly with eloquence and force. Turning to the representatives of the N.W.M.P., he regarded them as the Indian's best friend, for they had protected his people from the whiskey traders who were demoralizing the redmen . . . "as the feathers of the bird protect it from the cold and snow," Crowfoot spoke . . . "I am satisfied. I will sign!" And thus the day was saved for that little band of palefaces, and the country from lawlessness and savagery, to become one of the fairest provinces of the Dominion.

The Institute members brought rocks from their home places and on that sacred spot where the Peace Treaty was signed, they built a cairn in honor of the memory of those who participated in that momentous occasion of fifty years before.



INDIAN WOMEN'S HOMEMAKERS' CLUBS

IN 1953, Gleichen was the scene of another history-making event. It was the gathering of approximately one hundred persons for the second annual convention of the Indian Women's Homemakers' Clubs, Western Division. It was the first convention of its kind to be held in Alberta.

They met at the Crowfoot Hall, Blackfoot Reserve, Gleichen, on

August 18 to 20 inclusive. The Gleichen Club acted as hostesses to the gathering which included some sixty delegates from Manitoba and Saskatchewan and twenty or more from other Alberta clubs. These together with officials from the Indian Affairs Branch, at Ottawa, and social workers, and guest speakers, made about one hundred persons in all.

The similarity between their organization and that of the A.W.I. was most striking. A well-planned program of reports from the various clubs and talks by speakers reminded one of the A.W.I. provincial conventions. The programme chairman was an Indian woman of considerable dignity. The official language was English and their dress and hairstyling modern. The subjects discussed included "Planning a Balanced Diet in Winter", "Sanitation", "Entertainment for Young People", and "Choosing a Wardrobe".

The delegates wore identification badges stating the name of the place from which the member had come. Names such as Norway House, Fort Nelson, Frog Lake, etc. brought to mind events of early history. Their club pins were large silver-colored maple leaves, with a bronze face of an Indian woman superimposed on it and beneath the head was the inscription, "For Home and Country".

These Indian Women's Homemakers' Clubs, like our Institutes, had a modest beginning and began under government supervision and like us, it may be expected that, they too, will some day be able to stand on their own. These women are our sisters and the A.W.I. might well be concerned with the underdeveloped women in our own province as well as with those in other parts of the world. To that end Mrs. W. R. Ford, Coutts, district director of the south had a delegation of the Indian Homemakers visit the Annual District Conference in Calgary in 1954, and Mrs. T. H. Howes, Millet, A.W.I. Vice-President and Mrs. S. Swainson, Red Deer, Director of District No. 3 North, are making efforts to encourage the club at Hobbema and have them know that our similar organization desires to help them.



LINKS OF EMPIRE

COULD THERE BE a complete record of the Women's Institutes of Alberta without mention of the "Links of Empire", and what all those "Links" have meant not only to Alberta members, but to members of the Women's Institutes in all parts of the world?

There has been an exchange of greetings from all parts of the world, of cordial welcome and social visits when members of our own Institutes were welcomed in distant lands.

The Links of Empire are intended primarily to foster and cement cordial relations among the Dominions of the British Empire, and above all, to promote peace and harmony among all nations. Members of the Alberta Women's Institutes are helping greatly in the cause of

world peace by becoming "Links" of a great and worthy Empire, of which as Canadians they are proud to be a part.

The "Links of Empire" work was considered by the Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada at their meeting in 1947 and the name changed to "Pen Friends". Since 1953, the name has been "Letter Friendships". Contacts have been made and "Pen Friends" established in Scotland, England, Ireland, Sweden, Holland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, United States, Newfoundland, and Eastern Canada. Scrap books have been sent to Holland and Sweden.

The value of these contacts and friendships made by letter, with members of our organization, is measureless. The exchange of ideas, photos, parcels, and programmes makes for everybody a better understanding and appreciation of conditions and problems in each other's countries.

Mrs. Wm. MacFarlane, Red Deer, has been Alberta's Pen Friend secretary for the past eight years and is still doing excellent work in obtaining "Letter Friendships" for all who want a "Pen Friend".



SOUTHERN ALBERTA RADIUM FUND

AT THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE held at Lethbridge on March 5, 1936, the following resolution was presented:

"WHEREAS, all radium in Alberta is privately owned;

"BE IT RESOLVED that this Conference of Women's Institutes of District No. 4, assembled at Lethbridge on this day of March 5, 1936, go on record in instituting a campaign for the foundation of a fund for securing a supply of radium for the free use of all in need of such treatment."

The resolution was carried unanimously and resulted in the organization of the Southern Alberta Radium Association in May of the same year, with the Director of District No. 4 of the Alberta Women's Institutes, Mrs. M. L. Thompson as President, and representatives from twenty-eight affiliated societies. The Constituency Conveners of the Women's Institutes were to act as representatives of the Women's Institutes.

The idea originated from the suggestion of Dr. Stuart M. Rose, when he addressed the conference on "The Cure of Cancer". He stressed the continued prevalence of cancer and particularly impressed upon the mind of everyone that cancer, if taken in time, was absolutely curable. He stated that the most effective treatment known to medical science in the present day, was the use of radium, but because of its high cost, many sufferers had been unable to procure the use of it.

The raising of the money for the purchase of radium, during those depression years meant sacrifice, but was one of the greatest achieve-

ments of the Institutes in the south. They set out to raise \$5,000.00 and Mr. F. L. Rhodes, of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Lethbridge, acted as treasurer for the association. Donations rolled in and in April 1938, approximately 65 mgm. of radium were purchased at a cost of \$1,675.00 and in 1940 another 44 mgms. were purchased costing \$1,088.90. The radium was kept at the Galt Hospital, Lethbridge and was available to any certified and qualified radiologist giving treatments in the City of Lethbridge. The radium was insured and no charge was made for the use of it.

Meetings of the association are called only when business arises. At the annual meeting held in 1954, Dr. Rose stated that there had never been a week since the supply had been procured, that the radium had not been used and that often two or three patients were treated in a week.

It is the only publicly-owned supply south of Edmonton and the 100 plus mgms. on hand have brought relief throughout the years in a most gratifying manner. The supply is ample, so no further efforts to raise money for more is needed. Many human interest stories could be told. Recently a woman Displaced Person, arrived in Lethbridge with a doctor's order for radium treatment at once. Had this supply not been available, she would not have been able to get treatment for some time and the delay would have been serious.

MRS. M. E. GRAHAM

Organizer and President of the First Women's Institute in Alberta,
February 3, 1909

BORN IN ONTARIO of Irish parents who hailed from Dungannon, County Tyrone, Ireland, Mrs. Graham was educated and taught school in Ontario before coming west in 1906 with her husband, Hugh C. Graham, a descendent of Bonnie Dundee.

They settled in the Lea Park district, where on a number of occasions, Mrs. Graham was pressed into service as a teacher in River-ton, Tring, and Dewberry schools.

Being a real pioneer farmer's wife, she could handle a three- or four-horse team with ease. When her husband cut brush on the home- stead, she did the breaking. She could operate every kind of farm implement and has fed the threshing machine, "bucked" straw and ridden all day rounding up the cattle for the agricultural fair.

In the steep clay banks that led from her little home, she cut steps so that she could more easily have access to the Saskatchewan River, where from April to October, she took her daily dip and swim even though nearing 70 years of age.

Everything on the place was purebred—the colliers, the Clydesdale horses, the Shorthorn cattle, and the Barred Rock chickens. She had a fine collection of curios including some unusual specimens of Diamond Willow.

In 1936, she visited Mrs. A. H. Rogers for a month and although quite deaf, she proved to be a delightful houseguest. Her Irish wit and good humor which years of hardship never quenched made her interesting company. Shortly after this visit, Mr. and Mrs. Graham and their daughter moved back to Parkhill, Ontario—their old home-town. There Mrs. Graham was a regular contributor of articles to the London Free Press. In the fall of 1951, Mrs. Graham passed away, but she lives in the memory of all Institute members for giving Alberta her first Women's Institute.

MISS ISOBEL NOBLE

MISS ISOBEL NOBLE, the first Provincial President of the Alberta Women's Institutes, was born in Shelbyville, Illinois, her paternal grandparents having come from the Lake District of England. Together with fifty other families from the Old Land, they formed a settlement in the new State where the family continued to reside until Miss Noble was in her teens when they moved to Urbana, Illinois, and she entered the State University.

After her graduation, Miss Noble continued her studies in Cambridge, Yale, and Boston and became supervisor of physical instruction in the public schools of Hartford, Connecticut where she remained for five years. Later, after a break in health, she came to Canada with her brother and in 1908 settled near Daysland, Alberta, where they farmed extensively for twenty years



It was during the early years of her life in this province that Miss Noble was invited to attend the first Provincial convention of the Alberta Women's Institutes, held in Olds. She was elected the first Provincial President, holding the office for eight successive years. During this time the foundations of the organization were laid and this meant much travelling and a great deal of public speaking, but Miss Noble enjoyed the strenuous life and made many friends throughout the entire province. She visited all 300 Institutes in existence at that time, from Milk River to Peace River and from east to west.

After her retirement from this office, she was invited to become the provincial supervisor of the newly-formed Alberta Women's Institute Girls' Clubs, to which she gave unstintingly of her time and enthusiasm for four years.

Miss Noble now resides in Wichita, Kansas and still maintains her interest in women's welfare. For years she was State Officer in the American Association of University Women and active in the League of Women Voters.

During the past number of years, Miss Noble has spent a great deal of time in travel. She has had five trips to Europe, attended the Coronation of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, in 1953, and made a six-month plane trip around the world in 1954. She visited Institutes in Sydney, Auckland, and in Africa, so has kept up her contact with the organization she loved.

MRS. ELLA L. BEAUBIER



BORN IN Bellevue, Michigan, on June 21, 1868, Ella Louise, the youngest daughter of William and Marietta Cosgrove, attended the public and high schools of that place and completed her education in Olivet College. At the age of sixteen she began her career as a public school teacher and followed that profession for nine years.

She began speaking in public early in life and when reaching womanhood became interested in Women's Clubs and after taking up residence in California in 1901, organized one in her hometown of Upland, becoming its first president. She served as director of the southern district of California for two terms doing a great deal of organization work in that time. She was slated to become State

President but ill health prevented her acceptance of the office.

While in California, Ella Louise married J. N. Beaubier and in 1916 they came to Alberta settling in Champion. Mrs. Beaubier soon became associated with the Women's Institutes and received a warm welcome from the women of this province. After holding the office of director of the southern district for one term, she was elected Provincial President in May 1922 and graced that office for three years. Being an authority on parliamentary rules, it was one of her first acts of office, to supervise the compiling of the Constitution and By-Laws.

After a lapse of four years in provincial work, Mrs. Beaubier was elected recording secretary in 1929, holding that office until 1933. During those two terms she brought sound advice, gained from years of experience in club work, to the Provincial Council of Women's Institutes.

Mrs. Ella L. Beaubier departed this life on February 1, 1939 at her home in Champion, Alberta. Her kindly counsel and wholehearted interest in the cause of Women's Institute work will be remembered by all who worked with her and knew her.

MRS. WELLINGTON HUYCK

MABEL JINKS was born at Crofton, Prince Edward County, Ontario, April 6, 1882, the youngest of a family of nine children, of Anthony B. Jinks and Louise A. H. Dyer, descendants of United Empire Loyalists.

She received her early education in the little school at Crofton, her high school education at Trenton, and her model school training at Picton. For some years she taught school in Ontario.

In 1910 she married Wellington Huyck and came to live in the village of Strome, Alberta. In 1917 they moved to a farm a mile or so from Strome. For many years Mrs. Huyck was active in community work and Women's Institutes. She held many offices in the Women's Institutes including District Director for two

terms and Provincial President from 1925-1928. In all of the offices that she held, Mrs. Huyck showed herself to be a practical person of good judgment and sound common sense, faithful and dependable at all times. In her home she was a gracious hostess and handwoven rugs and beautiful counterpanes artistically designed and cleverly wrought were evidences of her ability in craftwork. Her larder stocked with canned fruit, vegetables, pickles, jellies, jams, chicken, and meats, of home production proved her skill as a real homemaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Huyck left the farm several years ago and made their home with their daughter, Mrs. Reba Hercomb, at Rimbey, Alberta, where Mr. Huyck passed away in October, 1954.

In the King's birthday list of July 1, 1946, Mrs. Huyck received the high honor of Member of the British Empire. She had served on a committee of nine from each province, who acted as an advisory committee to the Special Products Board of which Dr. Shaw, formerly of the University of Saskatchewan, was chairman. They also acted as an advisory committee to the Special Foods Board of which Mr. Grisdale, former principal of the Olds School of Agriculture, was chairman. Both of these committees were closely connected with the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. The committee of which Mrs. Huyck was a member, was composed of producers and dealt with poultry and poultry products.



MRS. H. J. MONTGOMERY



ADELAIDE VAUGHN MONTGOMERY, the fourth A.W.I. Provincial president was born August 8, 1885, in the village of Roscoe, Illinois. She spent her early years in towns and cities along the Mississippi Valley where her father was an engineer on the Burlington railway.

In October 1894, she came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford E. Vaughn, to Alberta and settled in the Wetaskiwin district. This was two years after the railway was finished from Calgary to Edmonton, so Mrs. Montgomery was one of the old timers of the Canadian west.

A log trading post, its chinks plastered with mud, but boasting a shingled roof, was her first home in Alberta. To this her mother brought one of the first pianos in the district

and from her the daughter acquired her musical education on the piano.

As she grew older it was necessary to move to Wetaskiwin for school facilities, and although there was only a public school there at the time, she was able to obtain a high school education with the assistance of her mother and the principal of the school who instructed her at recess periods and after four o'clock.

Possessed of a good voice, she studied in Minneapolis and later in Canada, receiving her L.A.B. in 1913 and the gold medal for soprano solos at the Provincial Musical Festival in 1914. She was one of a double quartette that won a shield at the Provincial Festival held in Edmonton in 1908—the first of its kind to be held in Canada.

On December 31, 1903, Mary Adelaide Vaughn became the wife of Hugh John Montgomery, of Bedeque, Prince Edward Island, who came to Wetaskiwin in 1898 and later established a business there. In addition to being a wife, and mother of two sons, one of whom passed on in 1922, she devoted much time to church, choir, and hospital work. In 1915 she became first president of the Wetaskiwin W.I. Branch, later becoming provincial convener of legislation, then director of district 3 from 1924-29 when she was elected Provincial President holding the office for four years. For ten years Mrs. Montgomery was provincial treasurer resigning in 1945. For several years she did publicity work for the whole province, sending Institute news to five newspapers. Later she confined her news to the Edmonton papers resigning in 1949. For many years, Mrs. Montgomery was in

charge of the Loan Collection and in 1937 helped compile the History of the Alberta Women's Institutes. She was a life member of the F.W.I.C. and was honored with one of the first life memberships in the A.W.I. For several years she conducted A.W.I. broadcasts over radio station CKUA

Possessed of tact, kindliness, and courage, she always gave praise where it was due, and she made many warm friends. On January 21, 1952, death called Mrs. Montgomery and having lived a full and useful life, she left a record of worthwhile work well done. Many cherish her memory as an able and courageous administrator, an efficient executive, and a kind, gracious and dearly loved officer and friend of the Alberta Women's Institutes.

MRS. J. P. FERGUSON



BORN NEAR Orangeville, Ontario, the only daughter of Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Tate, Mrs. Ferguson attended public and high schools in Ontario where she specialized in mathematics and science, later teaching high school in Ontario. Mrs. Ferguson took up the study of law and was awarded the Law Society Gold Medal in her final year, and now practices Law with her husband in Trochu, Alberta.

In 1918, Ruple Tate and J. P. Ferguson were married and they have a daughter Margaret and a son Crawford. Mrs. Ferguson has a distinct liking for reading and gardening outside her office and household duties.

The offices of W.I. constituency convener, provincial convener of legislation and district director

brought Mrs. Ferguson to the point of being elected Provincial President at the convention in May 1933. She was re-elected for a second term in 1935. Her knowledge of legal matters was of great benefit to the organization which she served, for the A.W.I. was going through trying times during her term of office.

The second conference of the Associated Country Women of the World was held in Washington, D.C. in May and June 1936, and Mrs. J. P. Ferguson and Mrs. A. H. Rogers were able representatives of the Alberta Women's Institutes at that triennial conference.

Mrs. Ferguson has not taken an active part in Women's Institutes during the past few years, but she takes a keen interest in reading and hearing about the work of the branches.

MRS. WILLIAM STEWART



SUSAN BARR VALLANCE, daughter of James Vallance, was born at Greathill, Strathaven, Scotland. She received her degree of M.A. from the University of Glasgow and took post-graduate work in Lycee de Caen, France.

She was married to William Stewart in Scotland in 1913 and came directly to Lesser Slave Lake, Alberta and a year later they moved to Peace River Crossing. Living three hundred miles from a railway, Mrs. Stewart could unfold many a tale of pioneering on the Peace.

In 1919 she became interested in the work of the Women's Institutes and for many years was president of the Peace River Branch. She attended her first A.W.I. convention in 1921, when the first Federated Women's

Institute of Canada Board met in Edmonton also. At various times Mrs. Stewart was constituency convener, district director, and was elected vice-president for two terms during 1925 to 1928, and from 1937 to 1941 was Provincial President. From 1941 to 1943 she was editor of the "Home and Country" magazine, and in 1937 she wrote "How the W.I. Membership Dollar is Spent" for the magazine.

In April 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart left Canada to visit their homeland—Scotland. After a delightful visit, they left for home on the ill-fated Athenia, on September 3, in order to be home in time for the A.W.I. convention and the F.W.I.C. Board meeting to be held in October. World War II was declared that day and the Athenia was torpedoed that evening. What an awful experience for them but Mr. and Mrs. Stewart were among those brought to safety. Many were the thankful hearts when that fact was learned.

During 1943-44 of World War II, Mrs. Stewart did war service in the German Division of the Censorship Department, Ottawa. Shortly after her return to Peace River, a F.W.I.C. life membership was awarded her by her home branch. At the F.W.I.C. Board meeting in 1941, Mrs. Stewart was offered a nomination for federated president, but she sent word that it was the east's turn to have the presidency.

In 1947, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart moved to Victoria, B.C., where in the spring of 1950 Mr. Stewart was suddenly called by death. Mrs. Stewart has continued to live in Victoria, but not being near a W.I. branch, she has belonged to the University Women's Club and to church organizations. She has never lost interest in the Women's Institutes, however.

MRS. M. L. THOMPSON

CHARLOTTE (LOTTIE) BRIDGE was born near Seattle, Washington, of American parents of British descent. Her mother died when Lottie was in her 'teens and she had to abandon her hopes for a scholastic career, but she continued to read and keep abreast of the times.

She married Marion L. Thompson at Yakima in 1913 and they came to Canada in 1920 with their four small children, and settled near Coaldale, Alberta, feeling they were strangers in a strange land, but they soon became attached to their new home. Mrs. Thompson can tell many amusing experiences of early days on the farm.

Of her four children, the eldest daughter, Lottie Belle, died very suddenly in 1933 while returning to Olds Agricultural School from a hockey match. Betty became president of the Alberta Women's Institute Girls' Clubs and held that position for four years after being vice president for one year. Another daughter, Anola, trained as a nurse and the only son Marion (Junior) lives in Lethbridge, as do Mr. and Mrs. Thompson now, having left the farm several years ago.

Mrs. Thompson was active in Institute work in her local branch at Coaldale, was a constituency convener for six years, district director for four years, and provincial vice-president for another four years. From 1941 to 1945 she was Provincial President. This was during the years of the Second World War and Institute work was curtailed, so that Mrs. Thompson was unable to visit conferences but much patriotic work was accomplished. The only A.W.I. convention held in her four years was in 1945.

Mrs. Thompson became editor of the Home and Country magazine in 1937 and carried on that work for two years. Then she started this important work again in 1944 and still (1955) is a capable editor. At the 1949 convention she was presented with a life membership in the F.W.I.C. by the A.W.I. Council for her faithful service in the A.W.I. over many years

She is friendly and hospitable and devoted to her family, her home, and her church. She considers the Women's Institute a great medium for adult education.



MRS. E. E. MORTON

MRS. E. E. MORTON was born Helen Forrest in St. John, New Brunswick, on November 29, 1884. Her people were of Scottish descent. She received her high school and college education in Winnipeg. Later she taught school in Winnipeg and then in Vegreville. It was here she met Edmund E. Morton and they were married in 1910 and together they homesteaded fifty miles from Vegreville. They had two sons.

In 1929, the family moved to Vegreville where Mrs. Morton served many years as a school trustee and was active in Red Cross and Navy League work and in other public activities of her community.

Women's Institute work was always a joy and inspiration to her and she held offices in her local branch, was district director for District No. 2, four years. For the next four years she served as provincial vice-president and convener of war services, giving of her talents and time unstintingly. During these onerous times, she also took on the duties of the first war work convener for the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and later was elected second vice-president of that organization. In 1945 she was elected A.W.I. Provincial President. In 1947, in addition to being chief executive of the A.W.I. for the second term, she became first vice-president of the F.W.I.C. She served one term as president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, and was a vice-president of the Associated Country Women of the World for three years and she attended three world conferences of the A.C.W.W.—one in Holland, one in Denmark, and one in Toronto.

Besides her work in the W.I. she found time to act as vice-president of the Alberta Library Association, a member of the Library Board and as director of the Canadian Cancer Society.

In 1953, Mrs. Morton was presented with a life membership in the A.W.I. and was a recipient of a Coronation Medal the same year. She was interested in basic English and started many women in other lands working on English classes.

During the two years previous to her passing on October 17, 1953, Mrs. Morton suffered the loss of her eyesight and received assistance from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Mrs. Morton was a wise counsellor, a loving friend to many, and her memory will long be revered by all who knew her. Truly the minister at the funeral service expressed the thought of all—"She hath done what she could".



MRS. A. B. McGORMAN

MRS. A. B. McGORMAN was born in Ontario and at an early age, came with her parents to a home-
stead in the Mayton district some 20 miles from Innisfail. There she knew all the joys and hardships of pioneer days when roads were mere trails and neighbors few and far away and schools presided over by "permit" teachers.

Mrs. McGorman went to high school in Innisfail where she carried off a Gold Medal for Proficiency. She normaled at Camrose and taught two years in country schools.

She and Mr. McGorman were married in August 1914 and took up residence on Mr. McGorman's farm two miles from Innisfail. Later they moved to Vernon, B.C., then to Coal-dale, Alberta, and on to Calgary after a short time. In 1930 they moved to a farm near Penhold. They had two sons.



Through all the busy years of the normal farm mother, when she took her full share of milking cows, raising chickens, gardening, and even "pinch-hitting" on the tractor when help was unobtainable, Mrs. McGorman made time for community service in the W.I. and her church. She was president of the W.M.S. of the Red Deer Presbyterial for some time and remains active in its work.

She held various offices in her local W.I. branch at Penhold, holding the presidency and then that of secretary. She was provincial supervisor of the Alberta Women's Institute Girls' Clubs for four years, district director for three years, provincial treasurer for a few months, convener of social services for two years, A.W.I. vice-president for four years and Provincial President for two terms 1949-1953.

Mrs. McGorman attended A.C.W.W. Conferences at Copenhagen, and Toronto. As convener for press and publicity for the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada in preparing for the conference of the A.C.W.W. at Toronto in 1953, Mrs. McGorman did a splendid piece of work.

Following the expiry of her term as A.W.I. president, Mrs. McGorman was desirous of giving the helping hand and seeing the great need for teachers, volunteered her services. So she is back in the country schoolroom and just loving her pupils and the work. She is finding that to help fit the young pupils in her schools, to meet conditions in the world, is a great privilege and a joy.

MRS. S. LEFSRUD



MRS. S. Lefsrud was born Jennie Ness, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Ness, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. When she was three months old, she was brought by her parents to Canada where they settled in the Ryley district of Alberta.

This was in 1905 when there was no Canadian National Railway in that area, but the wagon trail from Wetaskiwin to Vegreville passed about a block's distance from the door of their log house. Her father had cut trees, hewed logs and built their first home. The old lumber wagon and the ox team were their first means of transportation. Many were the hardships they endured as pioneers but they bore them with a smile and her mother to this day considers them happy years.

When the railway came through the district, the townsite of Ryley was built a mile from the Ness farm, so Jennie was able to attend school there. While in her teens, she spent two years at the Camrose Lutheran College and later took nurses' training at the Royal Alexander Hospital in Edmonton. After graduating she nursed in Camrose and Medicine Hat as a maternity supervisor and night supervisor respectively.

Jennie Ness and Sigurd Lefsrud were married on July 20, 1927 and took up residence in Viking where Mr. Lefsrud practices law. They have two sons in the University of Alberta—one taking medicine and the other law.

Mrs. Lefsrud became interested in W.I. work in the local branch at Viking and in 1945 attended the provincial convention where she was elected director of District No. 2 and re-elected in 1947. She was A.W.I. vice-pres. for two terms and in 1953 was elected Prov. President.

Being musical and possessed of a good voice, Mrs. Lefsrud was instrumental in starting the A.W.I. choirs which have been enjoyed at provincial conventions for several years. She was presented with a life membership in the A.W.I. by the Wainwright constituency in 1954.

Her love for music has urged her to share her ability with others and she now teaches a class of 30 pupils, and was for 14 years choir director of her church. Besides these activities she is a member of the Viking Chapter, A.A.R.N.

Mrs. Lefsrud has a quiet unassuming manner and a winsome smile. She gives unsparingly of her time to any community effort and has endeared herself to all who know her in the Institute work.

MRS. WILLIAM H. FLEMING

MRS. WILLIAM H. FLEMING was born Anna Amelia Odell in London, Ontario on June 19, 1867. She received her education at Pond Mills and graduated from Strathroy Normal School. She taught school at Dorchester until her marriage to Wm. Fleming in 1887.

She was the first secretary of the Wilton Grove Women's Institute, Middlesex County, and a director of the first East Middlesex District Women's Institute in 1910 and bought a farm at Argyle in the Flagstaff district where they lived until 1922. In March 1913, when the Argyle Women's Institute was organized she became the first president. She was also president of the Argyle Red Cross Society and the Patriotic Society during the Great War.

At the first provincial convention of Women's Institutes in Alberta, held at Olds in 1915, Mrs. Fleming was elected first vice-president, an office she filled for seven years and during that time she travelled many miles visiting and speaking to Institute gatherings. In 1922 when the family moved to Duncan, B.C., and later to Summerland, B.C., she became active in Institute work there. They returned to the Argyle district in 1928.

Mrs. Fleming served as a trustee on the local school board, was an Elder of the church, a superintendent and Sunday School teacher and President of the Ladies' Aid. In the early pioneer days in Alberta when doctors were few, she answered many a call for help in cases of sickness or accident.

She was a kindly gentlewoman with a genius for making friends. Her patient understanding and quiet sympathy enshrined her in the hearts of all who knew her. Mrs. Fleming passed on to her reward February 20, 1951.

MRS. D. R. McIVOR

MRS. D. R. McIVOR, before coming west in 1906, was a charter member and an officer of the Lion's Head Women's Institute, Bruce County, Ontario.

She became the first president of the Cowley Women's Institute when it was organized in 1913 and occupied that office for a number of years. After that she filled many offices in the Alberta Women's Institutes.

She was the first convener of the Pincher Creek and Rocky Mountain constituencies and later of the Stettler constituency. She organized a number of new branches in all three localities. She was first chairman of the A.W.I. standing committee on child welfare and public health. She was vice-president of the A.W.I. in 1923 and 1924, and secretary-treasurer during 1927 and 1928. Her name is associated with the very beginning of the provincial organization. It was she who made the suggestion in 1915, to the Minister of Agriculture, that

the government pay the railway fare to the convention at Olds, of one delegate from each Institute.

In 1921, at the request of Miss MacIsaac, Mrs. McIvor assembled the first display of handicrafts to be shown by a W.I. convention in the province. Most of the work exhibited was done by the women of the Doukhobor colony at Cowley.

Mrs. McIvor died in Stettler, July 16, 1954. She took her Institute duties seriously and gave of her best to the movement.

MRS. A. H. ROGERS

MARION MILNE SMYTH ROGERS was born in Ontario of Irish-Scotch parentage. She received her early education in S.S. No. 5 Saugeen, Bruce County, and in Toronto. After graduating from Harbord Collegiate and Normal School in Toronto, she taught school in Singhampton, Wellesley, and Galt, Ontario..

In 1904 she became a member of the Women's Institute at Wellesley, Ontario and has been active in that work ever since. In 1910, after her marriage to Arthur H. Rogers, they made their home in Saskatchewan where in 1911 Mrs. Rogers became the first President of the Prairie Flower Homemakers' Club at Lajord, Saskatchewan.

In 1915, she became the first secretary of the Fort Saskatchewan Women's Institute, the beginning of many faithful years of work in Alberta Women's Institutes. The next year, 1916, she was elected director of District No. 2 and in 1917 she was elected secretary-treasurer of the Alberta Women's Institutes to which position she was re-elected each year until she retired in 1927, and became director for District No. 2 again for a two-year term. In 1929 she was chosen A.W.I. vice-president and again in 1931. For eighteen consecutive years, Mrs. Rogers gave unstintingly of her services to the A.W.I. and to her is owed a debt of gratitude for her efficient work in assisting and guiding the A.W.I. through those days of struggle and financial crisis.

Along with her work in Alberta, Mrs. Rogers became corresponding secretary of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada in 1919 and then recording secretary from 1923 to 1935 when she retired and



was made a life member and honorary president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

It was also in 1919 that Mrs. Rogers became secretary-treasurer of the Alberta School Trustees' Association, a position that she held until 1942. She was editor of The Alberta School Trustee magazine from its inception in 1930 until 1942. She was a member of the Fort Saskatchewan School Board for 15 years and served on the Board of Reference and a number of committees dealing with curriculum and other educational matters.

It was during these years too, that this busy woman served as President of the Fort Saskatchewan Institute and later as President of the Edmonton W.I. as well as convener of education and better schools in the A.W.I. In 1937, Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Montgomery compiled "The Story of the Alberta Women's Institutes" giving to the organization data of early years which is of great value. For some years, Mrs. Rogers conducted the A.W.I. broadcasts over radio station CKUA.

Mrs. Rogers has been active in many outside interests as well including the Navy League of Canada of which she was secretary for four years and The Canadian Arthritic and Rheumatism Society, Alberta Division.

Among the thousands of Institute members in Canada, it would be hard to find one who has given more years of loyal service to the organization than Mrs. A. H. Rogers. Surely it can be said of her, "She has served well for 'Home and Country'".

OFFICERS 1915

President	Miss Isobel Noble, Daysland
1st Vice-President	Mrs. Wm. Fleming, Alliance
2nd Vice-President	Mrs. Elves, Vulcan
3rd Vice-President	Mrs. A. E. Saunders, St. Albert
Secretary	Mrs. Jean Muldrew, Red Deer
Treasurer	Miss A. T. Carlyle, Vermilion
Directors	Mrs. Robinson, Cowley
	Mrs. A. F. Wilson, Carmangay
	Miss Patterson, Taber
	Miss Robb, Provost
	Mrs. Blackwell, Athabasca

OFFICERS 1916

President	Miss Isobel Noble, Daysland
1st Vice-President	Mrs. Wm. Fleming, Alliance
2nd Vice-President	Mrs. J. A. McKenzie, Strathmore
Secretary-Treasurer	Mrs. Jean Muldrew, Edmonton
Directors	Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Fort Saskatchewan
	Mrs. H. J. Montgomery, Wetaskiwin
	Mrs. E. Warren, Milk River

OFFICERS 1917

President	Miss Isobel Noble, Daysland
1st Vice-President	Mrs. Wm. Fleming, Alliance
2nd Vice-President	Mrs. J. A. McKenzie, Strathmore
Secretary-Treasurer	Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Fort Saskatchewan
Directors	Mrs. F. S. Grisdale, Vermilion
	Mrs. H. J. Montgomery, Wetaskiwin
	Mrs. B. D. Hummon, Carmangay
	Mrs. J. F. Price, Peace River
	(Appointed by Advisory Board)

OFFICERS 1918

President	Miss Isobel Noble, Daysland
Vice-President	Mrs. Wm. Fleming, Alliance
Secretary-Treasurer	Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Fort Saskatchewan
Directors	Mrs. James Boyd, Vanrena
	Mrs. F. Grisdale, Vermilion
	Mrs. A. A. Towns, Coronation
	Mrs. D. B. Hummon, Milk River

OFFICERS 1919 AND RE-ELECTED FOR 1920

President.....	Miss Isobel Noble, Daysland
Vice-President.....	Mrs. Wm. Fleming, Alliance
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Fort Saskatchewan
Directors.....	Mrs. James Boyd, Vanrena
	Mrs. C. A. Gates, Stony Plain
	Mrs. A. A. Towns, Coronation
	Mrs. F. W. Hughes, Cavendish

OFFICERS 1921

President.....	Miss Isobel Noble, Daysland
Vice-President.....	Mrs. Wm. Fleming, Alliance
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Fort Saskatchewan
Directors.....	Mrs. James Boyd, Vanrena
	Mrs. C. A. Gates, Stony Plain
	Mrs. W. Huyck, Strome
	Mrs. J. N. Beaubier, Champion

OFFICERS 1922

President.....	Mrs. J. N. Beaubier, Champion
Vice-President.....	Mrs. James Boyd, Vanrena
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Fort Saskatchewan
Directors.....	Mrs. Wm. Stewart, Peace River
	Mrs. C. A. Gates, Stony Plain
	Mrs. W. Huyck, Strome
	Mrs. F. W. Hughes, Cavendish

OFFICERS 1923-1924

President.....	Mrs. J. N. Beaubier, Champion
Vice-President.....	Mrs. D. R. McIvor, Gibbons
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Fort Saskatchewan
Directors.....	Mrs. Wm. Stewart, Peace River
	Mrs. C. A. Gates, Stony Plain
	Mrs. W. Huyck, Strome
	Mrs. C. Lynch Staunton, Lundbreck

OFFICERS 1925-1926

President.....	Mrs. Wellington Huyck, Strome
Vice-President.....	Mrs. Wm. Stewart, Peace River
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Fort Saskatchewan
Directors.....	Mrs. James Boyd, Vanrena
	Mrs. C. A. Gates, Stony Plain
	Mrs. H. J. Montgomery, Wetaskiwin
	Mrs. C. Lynch Staunton, Lundbreck

OFFICERS 1927-1928

President.....	Mrs. Wellington Huyck, Strome
Vice-President.....	Mrs. Wm. Stewart, Peace River
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. D. R. McIvor, Stettler
Directors.....	Mrs. James Boyd, Vanrena
	Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Fort Saskatchewan
	Mrs. H. J. Montgomery, Wetaskiwin
	Mrs. F. C. Alcock, Champion

OFFICERS 1929-1930

President.....	Mrs. H. J. Montgomery, Wetaskiwin
Vice-President.....	Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Fort Saskatchewan
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. J. N. Beaubier, Champion
Directors.....	Mrs. W. R. Roberts, Sexsmith
	Mrs. W. C. Short, Edmonton
	Mrs. J. P. Ferguson, Trochu
	Mrs. F. C. Alcock, Champion

OFFICERS 1931-1932

President.....	Mrs. H. J. Montgomery, Wetaskiwin
Vice-President.....	Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Fort Saskatchewan
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. J. N. Beaubier, Champion
Directors.....	Mrs. W. R. Roberts, Sexsmith
	Mrs. W. C. Short, Edmonton
	Mrs. J. P. Ferguson, Trochu
	Mrs. J. A. Campbell, Milk River

OFFICERS 1933-1934

President.....	Mrs. J. P. Ferguson, Trochu
Vice-President.....	Mrs. Wm. Stewart, Peace River
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. J. A. Campbell, Milk River
Directors.....	Mrs. M. R. Upton, Berwyn
	Mrs. W. A. Brown, Paradise Valley
	Mrs. E. E. Ullman, Lousana
	Mrs. M. L. Thompson, Coaldale

OFFICERS 1935-1936

President.....	Mrs. J. P. Ferguson, Trochu
Vice-President.....	Mrs. Wm. Stewart, Peace River
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. J. A. Campbell, Milk River
Directors.....	Mrs. M. R. Upton, Berwyn
	Mrs. W. A. Brown, Paradise Valley
	Mrs. O. G. Sibbald, Munson
	Mrs. M. L. Thompson, Coaldale

OFFICERS 1937-1938

President.....	Mrs. Wm. Stewart, Peace River
Vice-President.....	Mrs. M. L. Thompson, Coaldale
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. R. E. Wood, Stony Plain
Directors.....	Mrs. W. R. Roberts, Sexsmith
	Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville
	Mrs. O. G. Sibbald, Munson
	Mrs. J. A. MacQuarrie, Barons

OFFICERS 1939-1940

President.....	Mrs. Wm. Stewart, Peace River
Vice-President.....	Mrs. M. L. Thompson, Coaldale
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. R. E. Wood, Stony Plain
Directors.....	Mrs. M. Zabel Peace River
	Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville
	Mrs. Wm. MacFarlane, Red Deer
	Mrs. E. J. Bell, Hussar

OFFICERS 1941-1942

President.....	Mrs. M. L. Thompson, Coaldale
Vice-President.....	Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. Wm. MacFarlane, Red Deer
Directors.....	Mrs. M. Zabel, Peace River
	Mrs. H. R. Evans, Innisfree
	Mrs. M. I. MacKenzie, Knee Hill Valley
	Mrs. R. E. Reynolds, Picture Butte

OFFICERS 1943-1944

President.....	Mrs. M. L. Thompson, Coaldale
Vice-President.....	Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. Wm. MacFarlane, Red Deer
Directors.....	Mrs. D. W. Patterson, Grande Prairie
	Mrs. H. R. Evans, Innisfree
	Mrs. A. B. McGorman, Penhold
	Mrs. R. E. Reynolds, Picture Butte

OFFICERS 1945-1946

President.....	Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville
Vice-President.....	Mrs. H. R. Evans, Innisfree; and
	Mrs. A. B. McGorman, Penhold
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. C. G. Strong, Vegreville
Directors.....	Mrs. D. W. Patterson, Grande Prairie
	Mrs. S. Lefsrud, Viking
	Mrs. A. B. McGorman, Penhold; and
	Mrs. T. H. Howes, Millet
	Mrs. Earl C. Hutchinson, Warner

OFFICERS 1947-1948

President.....	Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville
Vice-President.....	Mrs. A. B. McGorman, Penhold
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Mrs. C. G. Strong Vegreville
Directors	Mrs. D. W. Patterson, Grande Prairie
	Mrs. S. Lefsrud, Viking
	Mrs. T. H. Howes, Millet
	Mrs. Earl C. Hutchinson, Warner

OFFICERS 1949-1950

President.....	Mrs. A. B. McGorman, Penhold
Vice-President.....	Mrs. S. Lefsrud, Viking
Secretary-Treasurer	Mrs. W. E. Janssen, Hillsdown
Directors.....	Mrs. Lorne Harris, Berwyn
	Mrs. J. C. McLean, Irma
	Mrs. T. H. Howes, Millet
	Mrs. A. McIlroy, Shaughnessy

OFFICERS 1951-1952

President.....	Mrs. A. B. McGorman, Penhold
Vice-President.....	Mrs. S. Lefsrud, Viking
Secretary-Treasurer	Mrs. W. E. Janssen, Hillsdown
Directors.....	Mrs. Lorne Harris, Berwyn
	Mrs. J. I. Jones, Mannville
	Mrs. S. Swainson, R.R. 1, Red Deer
	Mrs. A. B. Mundie, Knee Hill Valley
	Mrs. A. McIlroy Shaughnessy

OFFICERS 1953-1954

President.....	Mrs. S. Lefsrud, Viking
Vice-President.....	Mrs. T. H. Howes, Millet
Secretary-Treasurer	Mrs. R. W. Prendergast, Red Deer
Directors.....	Mrs. J. D. Hayden High Prairie
	Mrs. J. I. Jones, Mannville
	Mrs. S. Swainson, R.R. 1, Red Deer
	Mrs. J. R. Tait, Hanna
	Mrs. W. R. Ford, Coutts

The story of the Alberta Women's Institutes is not complete without recording the work of the Alberta Women's Institute Girls' Clubs.

In 1918, the Home Nursing Instructors sent out to the Women's Institute branches, found their Nursing and First Aid Courses were of particular interest to the girls of the communities. They were so enthusiastic over the work that they did not wish to give up the subject after the three days' instruction. Upon their own suggestion, the girls organized Girls' Clubs and appointed supervisors from the Women's Institutes. This First Aid Club gradually developed other interests and the demand for organization increased.

In 1919, the Legislature passed an amendment to the Act respecting Women's Institutes creating Women's Institute Girls' Clubs. Miss Bessie C. McDermand was made superintendent of these clubs.

The FIRST W.I.G.C. CONVENTION was held in Edmonton, Wednesday, March 17, 1920, in the First Baptist Church. It was held jointly with the Women's Institute convention with Miss Isobel Noble presiding. The W.I.G.C. elections resulted as follows: President, Miss Edna Francisco, Cavendish; First Vice-President, Miss Alice Gates, Stony Plain; Second Vice President, Miss Minnie Page, Elnora; Third Vice-President, Miss Della Fleming, Alliance; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Daisy Hummel, Milk River; Directors: Misses Majorie Anderson, Stony Plain; Mamie Johnson, Provost; Clara Smith, Alliance; and Evelyn Joachim, Milk River.

That year there were 40 W.I.G. Clubs with a membership of 840 girls learning teamwork and developing a high standard of community consciousness.

In June 1921 the SECOND W.I.G.C. CONVENTION was held in Edmonton. The F.W.I.C. Biennial Board meeting and A.W.I. convention were followed by the A.W.I.G.C. convention. All were held in Convocation Hall, University of Alberta. 54 clubs reported. A resolution which showed their interest in girls' welfare, was passed asking the government to provide dormitories for the girls at the Agricultural Schools.

The THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION of the A.W.I.G.C. was held in the Palliser Hotel, Calgary, in June 1922 and followed the A.W.I. convention. At this time it was decided to have a Provincial Fund raised by an annual levy at the rate of fifty cents per member.

The FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION of the A.W.I.G.C. preceded the A.W.I. convention in May 1923, at Convocation Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton. At this convention, the following resolution was adopted, "Whereas it would help the Girls' Clubs a great deal to have someone especially interested in girls' work and with authority to give instruction and advice upon request, therefore be

THE STORY OF THE ALBERTA WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

it resolved that the Women's Institute Advisory Board include such an officer".

During 1924, provision was made for such an officer and Miss Isobel Noble was appointed Women's Institute Supervisor of the Alberta Women's Institute Girls' Clubs.

The FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION of the A.W.I.G.C. was not held jointly with the A.W.I. as formerly. It was held at Lake Edith Camp, Jasper, July 2-4, 1924, with Miss Noble supervising. The chief speaker was Miss Esther Thompson, organizer of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of the Saskatchewan Homemakers. The membership fee for the Provincial Fund was changed from fifty cents to twenty-five cents. Mrs. Stavert, of Calgary, was convener of a committee which drafted the A.W.I.G.C. Creed which has been used by the clubs since that time.

The SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION was held in Banff, July 2-6, 1925 with Miss Noble, provincial supervisor in charge. Competitions were held for the best bread, kitchen apron, darning, essay, and club report. Pictures were given winners in each competition.

The SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION was held at Lake Edith, Jasper, July 8-11, 1926 with Miss Noble again supervising. Competitions were held, as well as lectures and demonstrations, hikes and sight-seeing trips.

The EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION was held at Banff, July 6-10, 1927, with Miss Noble in charge and Mrs. J. MacGregor Smith the new W.I. Girls' Club supervisor visiting. Contests were for the most athletic girls, for taking most active part in discussions, for the secretary having done the best reporting for the year, and for the delegate coming the greatest distance and for the best group.

Up to this time, the provincial government had financed the greater portion of the costs of the A.W.I. and A.W.I.G.C. conventions. In 1928, by an amendment to the Act respecting Women's Institutes, the A.W.I. and A.W.I.G.C. were put on their own resources. The A.W.I.G.C. having no funds to finance a convention, none was held that year. But early in the autumn of 1928 plans were made for a convention to be held the following summer.

The NINTH CONVENTION of the A.W.I.G.C. was held in St. Joseph's College, Edmonton, July 10-26, 1929 with 80 delegates and guests registered. Mrs. J. MacGregor Smith, the provincial supervisor was in charge.

The Nellie McClung Public Speaking Trophy was first awarded at this convention and was won by Grace Eastly, Sedgewick, speaking on the subject, "The League of Nations". The Emily Murphy Athletic Trophy was also first awarded at this time to Mary Boychuk, Round Hill. That year also, the A.W.I. Girls' Clubs began to print the report

of their conventions. Formerly these had been included in the Women's Institute yearbook.

The first W.I.G.C. district convention was held at Medicine Hat in 1928, with Della Kosek, A.W.I.G.C. district director in charge. They had a one-day session with twelve clubs being represented. The Women's Institute provided for the social activities of the girls which included a trip to the greenhouse, candy factory, flour mills, and potteries, followed by a banquet. The District 4, A.W.I.G.C. Conference has been held jointly with the A.W.I. District 4 Conference since that time.

The TENTH CONVENTION was held in Mount Royal College, Calgary, July 2-7, 1930, with Mrs. J. MacGregor Smith, supervisor in charge. This year the A.W.I.G.C. launched as their objective, the awarding of a scholarship to a household economic student obtaining the highest standing in household subjects of the second year at the University of Alberta, to be paid to the winner at the beginning of the following academic year.

The ELEVENTH CONVENTION was held at St. Joseph's College, Edmonton, July 23-26, 1931 under the supervision of Mrs. J. MacGregor Smith, with Mrs. C. R. Wood the new supervisor as a visitor. The offer of the Mrs. J. Rodell Cup for a short story contest, was announced to be competed for in 1932.

The TWELFTH CONVENTION was held at the Olds School of Agriculture, July 5-8, 1932, with Mrs. C. R. Wood supervising. It was at this convention that the Mrs. J. A. Rodell Cup for the best Canadian short story written by a W.I. Girls' Club member not over eighteen years of age, was awarded. It was won from seven entries, by Florence Hoffman, Sedgewick.

The delegates adopted a suggested programme of studies on education, home, health, citizenship, nature, and handicraft for both Junior and Senior Clubs. These outlines of study for the A.W.I.G.C. were similar to the standing committee work of the A.W.I., and formed a basis for a programme of studies for the building of character, through educational work and social activities. Olds was voted an ideal place for the conventions.

The THIRTEENTH CONVENTION was held in Olds, July 4-7, 1933, with Mrs. C. R. Wood in charge. Since no one had qualified for the A.W.I.G.C. Scholarship award, it was decided that the \$25.00 be given for the year 1933, to the university, for equipment for the kitchen in household science work.

A library loan collection of papers in standing committees was started and Della Kosek, Lethbridge, was appointed librarian. Mrs. F. G. Grevett, Calgary W.I. member, undertook the editing of the A.W.I.G.C. yearbook, and placed it on a sound footing.

THE STORY OF THE ALBERTA WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

The FOURTEENTH CONVENTION was held in Olds, July 3-6, 1934, under the supervision of Mrs. C. R. Wood. At the 1934 session of the Alberta Legislature, the Act respecting Women's Institutes, was amended to permit the organization of W.I. Girls' Clubs with members of from six years of age up, girls from 6 to 14 years to form Junior Clubs and 15 upward to form Senior Clubs.

The FIFTEENTH CONVENTION was held in Olds, July 2-5, 1935 with Mrs. C. R. Wood in charge and Mrs. E. J. Bell, the new supervisor as visitor. The Constitution of the Alberta Women's Institute Girls' Club was discussed and amended to come under the new act.

The SIXTEENTH CONVENTION was held in Olds, July 7-10, 1936, under Mrs. E. J. Bell, the supervisor. At this time, the W.I. Girls' Clubs in District No. 4 agreed to take their part and contribute to the Radium Fund being raised in that district. Pearl McBride, Endiang, won the Emily Murphy Tophy for the third consecutive year and became the owner of the silver cup. Miss Evelyn Murphy donated another cup under her mother's name to be competed for annually thereafter.

The SEVENTEENTH CONVENTION was held in Olds, July 13-16, 1937 with Mrs. E. J. Bell in charge. Two interesting features of this convention were addresses by Mrs. Wm. Stewart, Provincial W.I. President, and Mrs. F. G. Grevett. Mrs. Stewart's topic was "The History of Scotland" and she illustrated it with folk songs. Mrs. Grevett gave a talk on her "Trip to Vimy" accompanied with lantern slides.

The EIGHTEENTH CONVENTION was held in Olds, July 20-23, 1938, with Mrs. E. J. Bell supervising. A highlight of this convention was the inspiring address of Mrs. Laura Goodman Salverson, on "Story Writing". She gave many helpful hints to the girls, and gave them freshened enthusiasm for competing in the story contest for the Mrs. J. A. Rodell Trophy.

The NINETEENTH CONVENTION was held in Olds, in July 1939, with Mrs. E. J. Bell in charge and Mrs. A. B. McGorman, the new supervisor visiting. At this convention the clubs celebrated their 21st birthday very fittingly by a pageant of their 21 years' service. An outstanding event of the year 1939 was the visit of Their Majesties, the King and Queen. The A.W.I.G.C. presented Her Majesty, the Queen, with a copy of their 1939 magazine and a message of loyalty, which were graciously accepted in a message of thanks.

The TWENTIETH CONVENTION was held in Olds, July 17-20, 1940 with Mrs. A. B. McGorman supervising. Mrs. Walter Weller, Calgary, gave a most interesting and helpful course in dramatics. Since only a few of the clubs contributed to the Scholarship Fund, it was decided to discontinue the award.

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The TWENTY-FIRST CONVENTION was held in Olds in July 1941 with Mrs. A. B. McGorman in charge. Mrs. Weller gave another series on dramatics and for the first time a scholarship was given an Alberta W.I. Girls' Club member attending the convention. It was awarded by the Alberta Wheat Board and their Trust Fund and amounted to \$75.00 to be used toward the expenses of the winner in her first year at the Olds School of Agriculture. Elsie Graham, of Picture Butte was the winner. The magazine printed from 1929 to 1941 was changed to a mimeographed record of the A.W.I.G.C. activities.

The TWENTY-SECOND CONVENTION was held in Olds under the supervision of Mrs. A. B. McGorman, in July 1942. The girls united in war work efforts and contributions were sent to Red Cross, Queen's Canadian Fund, Fire Fighters in England, and soldiers' comforts. Many quilts and ditty bags were sent to the A.W.I. war work convener.

The TWENTY-THIRD CONVENTION was held at Olds in July 1943 with Mrs. A. B. McGorman in charge and Mrs. Roy Drake the new supervisor visiting. The 25th anniversary of Girls' Clubs was celebrated at this convention. Mrs. Weller gave her third year's series in dramatics. This year for the first time, the efficiency winners of all Girls' Clubs in Alberta who had taken a course from the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture, met at the same time at the Olds School of Agriculture. Some of the sessions were held jointly and all shared the banquet.

The TWENTY-FOURTH CONVENTION was held at Olds, July 24-28, with Mrs. Roy Drake, supervisor, in charge. Mrs. Weller was again with the girls and the Alberta Wheat Board Scholarship award was made again. This was another joint convention, with the provincial Girls' Clubs under Miss Frazer.

The TWENTY-FIFTH CONVENTION was held at Olds, July 9-14, 1945 with Mrs. Drake supervising. The programme was much as formerly and wonderful reports of war work done by the clubs were given.

The TWENTY-SIXTH CONVENTION was held at Olds in July 1946. The Alberta Women's Institutes gave Mrs. Drake, the supervisor, a Girls' Club Assistance Fund to help Girls' Club delegates get to the convention. When the A.W.I. got behind the Girls' Clubs, things really happened. Mrs. Drake expected 70 girls and 169 came. This convention was the first for some years, that was not held jointly with Miss Fraser's winners. It was held by itself because Mrs. Drake guaranteed sixty delegates. Mrs. Morton, Provincial President, and Mrs. S. Lefsrud W.I. director for District No. 2 attended, and gave valuable assistance.

The TWENTY-SEVENTH CONVENTION was held in Olds in July 1947, with Mrs. Drake in charge and Mrs. Douglas Thompson, the new supervisor visiting. Mrs. Lefsrud was again present and helped present a group musical number during the three days of the convention. Mrs. Morton also was present and the girls collected a purse toward her trip to the Amsterdam convention. At this convention, a prize of a trip to Olds with fare and expenses paid was awarded for the first time to the best set of secretarial reports during the year. Rosalie MacDonald, from Leduc, was the winner.

The TWENTY-EIGHTH CONVENTION was held in Olds in July 1948 with Mrs. C. C. Robinson, newly appointed supervisor in charge. Mrs. Douglas Thompson had found it necessary to resign during the year. A fashion show and the awarding of the trophies for the various competitions were highlights.

The TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION was held in Olds, in July 1949, with Mrs. C. C. Robinson, supervisor, and Mrs. George Hay, assistant, in charge. The first W.I. Boys' Club—the Live Wire Lads, of Innisfail, was formed in October 1948. Mr. George Hay, their supervisor, taught the club members to do shop work. A highlight of this convention was a demonstration on stage make-up by Mr. Richard Macdonald, Director of the Cultural Activities Branch of the Department of Economic Affairs. Mrs. A. B. McGorman who followed in Mrs. Morton's footsteps as A.W.I. President, was present at the convention and was a great help and inspiration to the girls and boys. Four associate supervisors, one for each district, attended this convention and were very helpful in carrying out a successful convention.

The THIRTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION was held in Olds in July 1950, with Mrs. C. C. Robinson supervisor and Mrs. Geo. Hay assistant, in charge. Three W.I. Boys' Clubs had been organized and Mrs. Geo. Hay took charge of the boy delegates at the convention. Radio station CFCN offered two cups—one for public speaking for the boys, and one for club efficiency for the girls. Edgar Robinson, of Innisfail was the winner of the cup for boys and the most efficient club of the year was "The Munson Merrymakers". Eighty sewing kits made by A.W.I.G.C. members, were sent during the year to eighty war orphans who were graduating from a vocation school in Greece. Some clubs adopted war orphans and made clothes for them. At the suggestion of Mrs. A. B. McGorman, A.W.I. president, the Club Travel Fund was started to assist outlying clubs in sending their supervisor and a representative from each club to the annual convention in 1951.

The THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION was held in Olds in July 1951 with Mrs. C. C. Robinson, supervisor in charge and Mrs. L. Handley the newly appointed supervisor visiting. Mrs. Handley has

the honor of being the first provincial supervisor of the Women's Institute Girls' Clubs who was a former W.I.G.C. member. Mrs. George Hay resigned as Boys' Club supervisor and Mrs. T. Sharp, of Munson was appointed to fill the vacancy. Ten Boys' Clubs were in the province at time of this convention. The public speaking contest was won by a Japanese girl, Noriko Ayukawa, of Turin. It is good to see that the A.W.I.G.C. is living up to its aim and includes girls of all nationalities.

The THIRTY-SECOND annual convention of the A.W.I.G.C. was held in Olds in July 1952 with Mrs. L. D. Handley, supervisor in charge. Her assistant was Mrs. B. G. Nolan, of Picture Butte. The usual awarding of prizes was a feature, and Mrs. McGorman, A.W.I. President made the suggestion that Boys' Clubs should not be encouraged under the W.I., but that they should be handled and supported by men's organizations. Many A.W.I. Girls' Clubs are taking 4-H Club projects and in 1952 the W.I. Girls' Club taking the 4-H clothing project won first prize in the Dominion Competition at the Toronto Royal Fair. It was the Ohaton Jolly Junior 4-H Clothing Club. Membership in the A.W.I.G.C. was reported to be 1,380 and there were 92 clubs.

The THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION was held at Olds in July 1953 with Mrs. L. D. Handley, supervisor, and her assistant, Mrs. B. G. Nolan in charge. A fifty-dollar scholarship is to be awarded annually to a member or a former member of the A.W.I.G.C. toward her university education. The first winner of this scholarship given by the provincial A.W.I. Girls' Clubs, was Audrey Chaba, of Redwater, who entered the fall term at the university to take home economics. Mrs. S. Lefsrud, the newly elected A.W.I. president visited the convention and gave the girls great help and encouragement. At this convention the clubs adopted a "Flag Salute" and asked the A.W.I. branches to accept it. The salute was, "I salute the flag, the emblem of our country, and to her I pledge my love and loyalty". It was also decided that all W.I.G.C. crests be worn on the left side of the blouse. Helen and Viola Howard, of Munson W.I.G.C. and 4-H Clothing Club were winners in the 1953 Club Competition at the Toronto Royal Winter Fair.

The THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL A.W.I.G.C. CONVENTION was held in Olds in July 1954 with Mrs. L. D. Handley, supervisor and her assistant, Mrs. B. G. Nolan in charge. The Provincial Travel Fund had grown and made it possible for several delegates and supervisors from distant places to attend. Three of the A.W.I. district directors—Mrs. D. J. Hayden, Mrs. W. Ford, and Mrs. W. J. Tait—attended the convention and gave helpful advice and assistance. One of the highlights was the demonstration by Helen and Viola Howard—the 1953 winners at the Toronto Royal Fair. The clothing demonstration was "All in a Nutshell".

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The first Girls' Club Conference to be held in District No. 1 was held at Fairview in July 1954, just prior to the A.W.I.G.C. convention at Olds. The conference was a great success and the girls voted unanimously to meet again in their new Fairview Agricultural College, in 1955.

Throughout all the years our Alberta Women's Institute Girls' Club members have been preparing themselves to carry on Women's Institute work, and in the ranks of the W.I. branches today (1955) there are many who were former W.I.G.C. girls.

